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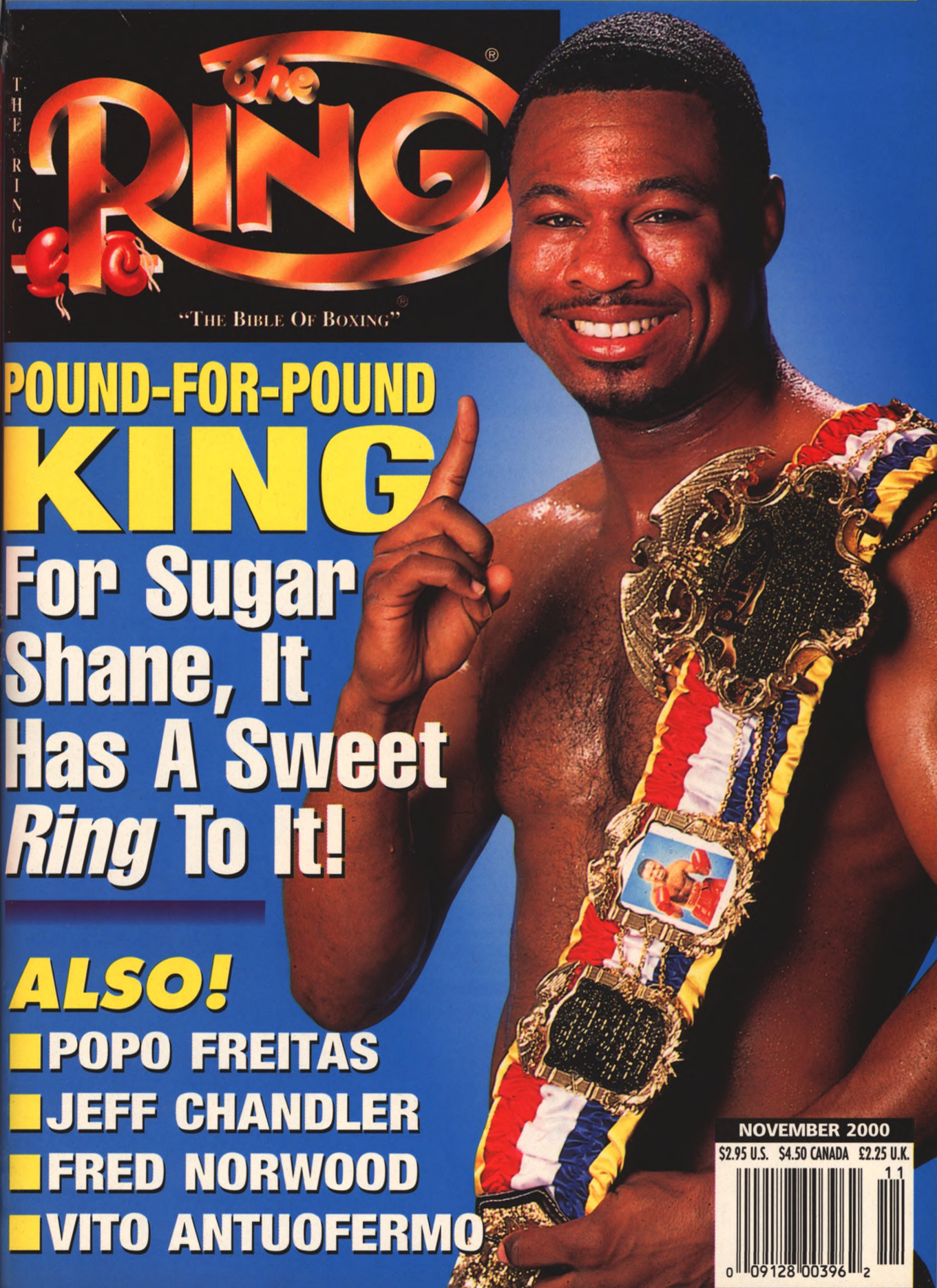

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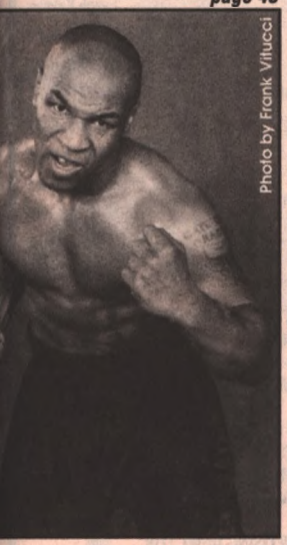

Photo by Frank Vitucci

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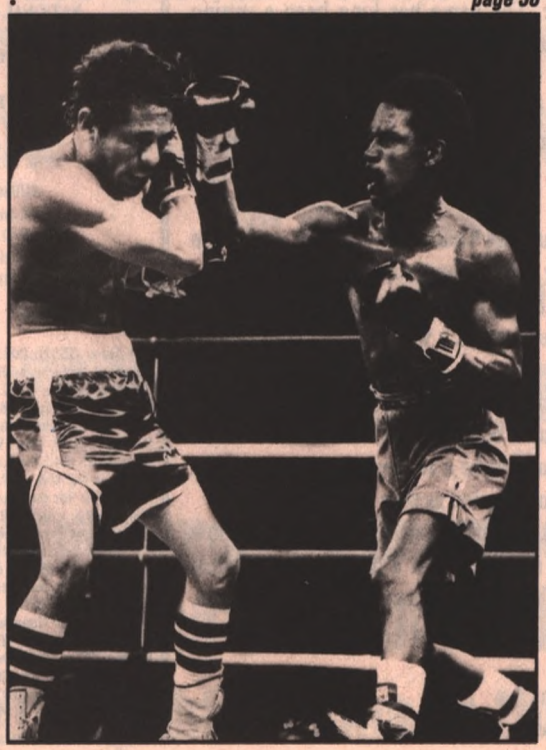

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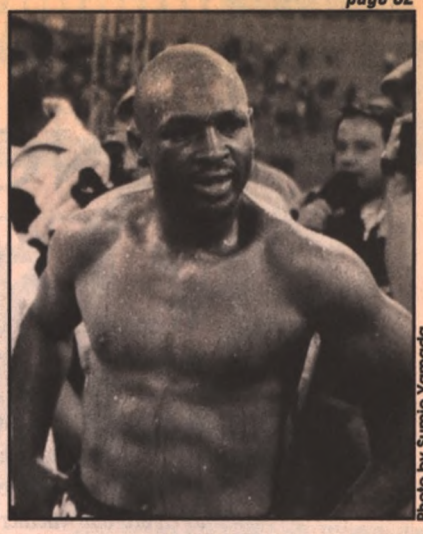

Photo by Sumio Yamada

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Cover Design:
Joe Kalman

RINGSIDE

While a lot of folks were incensed about Mike Tyson's appalling lack of class both during and after his so-called fight with Lou Savarese, I see a larger and potentially more significant problem looming, one far more complicated than how to curb Tyson's bad behavior. I think boxing has to start taking a serious look at the mental health of all of its participants and try to figure out whether or not unbalanced individuals should be allowed to box.

Fighters have always been required to be physically fit, and even though medical examinations have been lax in the past, since the Professional Boxing Safety Act became law in October 1996, the situation has improved to the point where boxing is probably the best medically regulated sport in the world. But what about fighters' mental health?

To start with, we have to ask ourselves if a fighter's mental health is pertinent. I've always felt that you have to be at least a little bit nuts to become a boxer in the first place. An oversized ego and a certain amount of zealotry are practically compulsory for all fighters. A ruthless disposition and a touch of masochism can also be helpful. But at what point do these qualities outlive their usefulness and become liabilities? Where's the line, and, just as importantly, who should draw it?

Tyson is not the only fighter involved. Ike Ibeabuchi is currently incarcerated in Nevada, undergoing psychiatric evaluation prior to going on trial for sexual assault, former heavyweight champion Michael Moorer threatened to kill himself earlier this year, and Johnny Tapia was recently hospitalized for depression. And unless I've missed my guess, these guys are just some of the more publicized cases, and a lot more fighters are suffering from some sort of mental illness.

Boxing, of course, can be very therapeutic. The game has long been a setting where social misfits can find redemption by channeling their anger, fear, and frustration into something positive. Without such an outlet, many men would never have found their place in the world and would have been denied the opportunity to better themselves. It would be stupid and counterproductive to sever this lifeline, but I think it's becoming obvious that there should be more checks and balances than are currently in place.

As we know from the unseemly circus surrounding Tyson's psychiatric evaluation prior to the reinstatement of his Nevada boxing license, implementing new licensing procedures that include a mental health test will be very tricky business indeed. And if such assessments ever become routine, the fighters' privacy would have to be guarded vigorously.

Sadly, for much of our backward-thinking society, mental illness is still a taboo subject, something of which to be ashamed. But just as boxing broke the so-called "color line" decades ahead of other sports, maybe it can now be a leader in a new crusade, a campaign to make sure that all fighters are as sound of mind as they are of body.

I'm not sure exactly what steps should be taken, but isn't it just as wrong to allow a mentally sick person to box as it is to allow a fighter with a debilitating physical injury or disease to fight? At the very least, I believe it's time to begin a dialogue. Anything less would be crazy.

Nigel Collins
Editor-in-Chief

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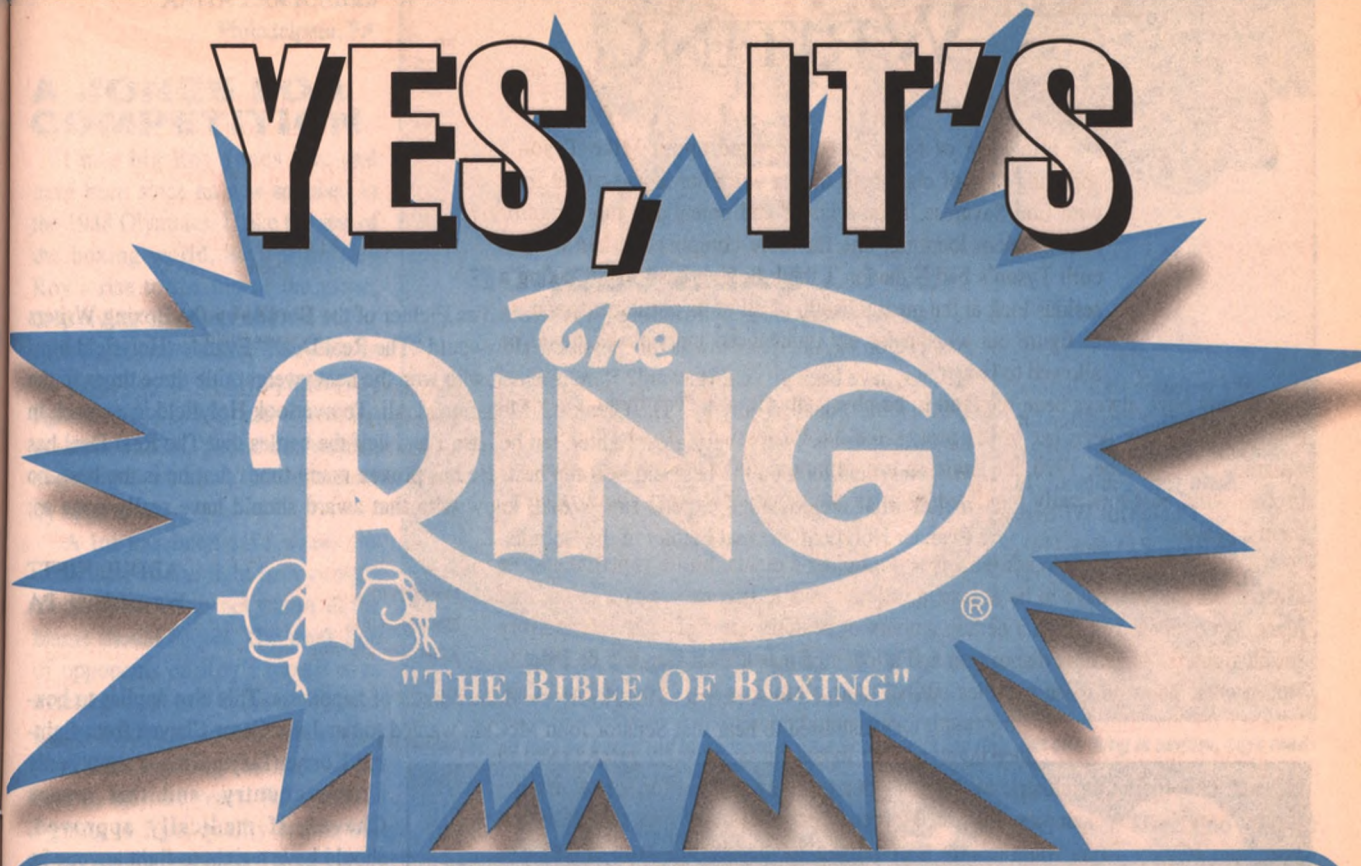

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COME OUT WRITING

We welcome your letters, which may be edited for reasons of space and clarity. Send your comments to Come Out Writing, The Ring, P.O. Box 1148, Ft. Washington, PA 19034

REAL DEAL'S DECADE

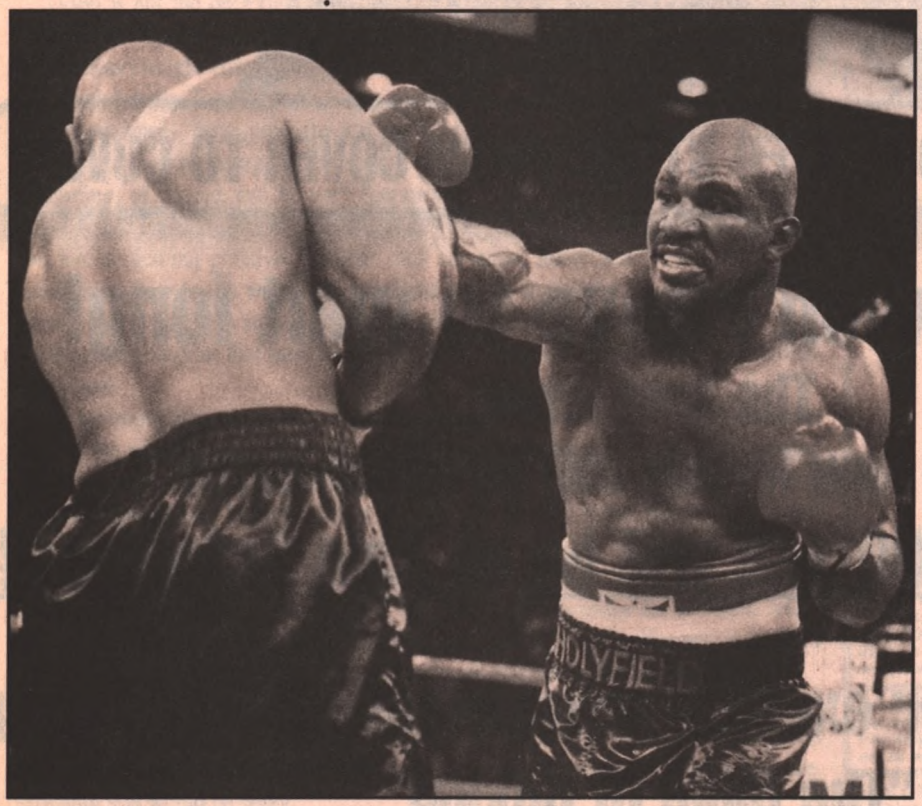
I am very, very unhappy Roy Jones was selected as Fighter of the Decade by the Boxing Writers Association of America. How is this possible? How could "The Real Deal," Evander Holyfield himself, not have been given this award? Here is a man who won the heavyweight title three times in the 1990s, a feat equalled only by "The Greatest," Muhammad Ali. To overlook Holyfield is a smack in the face. Jones is a very, very great fighter, but he hasn't had half the battles that The Real Deal has had. Holyfield took on the best and beat the best. He has proven many times that he is the best, no matter what the so-called experts say. We all know who that award should have really gone to: Evander Holyfield, the real Fighter of the Decade.

ABDUL KIETT
Waynesburg, PA

BUTT OUT, McCAIN

We are entitled in America to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. This also applies to boxers. I was disgusted to hear that Senator John McCain wanted to bar Julio Cesar Chavez from fighting Kostya Tszyu. This is supposedly a free country, and this means Chavez, if medically approved, should have a right to fight anyone he wants. What of boxers like Archie Moore or Roberto Duran, who won titles when they were in their late-30s? These type of guys, under McCain's suggestion, would have never had a chance at such greatness. Thanks but no thanks, Mr. McCain, for sticking your two cents in boxers' affairs. Social security and budget deficits are not the same as knockouts!

JASON HOLLAND
Tucson, AZ



Evander Holyfield, not Roy Jones, should have been selected as Fighter of the Decade by the Boxing Writers Association of America, contends reader Abdul Kiett, who supports his argument with the fact that Holyfield won three heavyweight titles in the 1990s.

FED UP WITH BEAN

I have been an avid boxing fan for many years. But these days, boxing sucks. That undercard of the Oscar De La Hoya-Shane Mosley fight, featuring that clown, Butterbean, against Kerry Biles, who had just three fights, was an absolute disgrace. It was so obviously fixed that even the

announcers sounded disgusted. How can any state athletic commission allow this type of action to ruin the world of good, decent, exciting boxing?

ANITA ZAMICHIELI
Philadelphia, PA

A JONES FOR COMPETITION

I'm a big Roy Jones fan, and have been since he was snubbed in the 1988 Olympics. I, like the rest of the boxing world, have witnessed Roy's rise to the top of the game, displaying his outstanding skills each fight and beating everyone in his path. Roy is, in my opinion, the fighter of the 1990s, and one of the greatest boxers, pound-for-pound, ever. But as we know, he lacks quality opponents.

A lot has been said about the weak state of the light heavyweight division, but this is not where all the blame should be put. The weak line of opponents on Roy's record is as much his fault as it is the state of the game. With his superior ability, he should be fighting the best of the best in his last years. He could be signing to fight quality cruiserweight Vassiliy Jirov, top light heavyweight contender Dariusz Michalczewski, or a rematch with Bernard Hopkins. Instead, he is dominating such mismatched opponents as David Telesco and Richard Hall.

Until Roy fights a few more big names, his critics and fans will have one thing to knock about him. I only hope, being a Roy Jones fan, that he does sign to fight a big name or two, so he can justify his claim as one of the greatest pound-for-pound fighters ever. So, Roy, please do it for the fans, do it for boxing, and most importantly, do it for yourself!

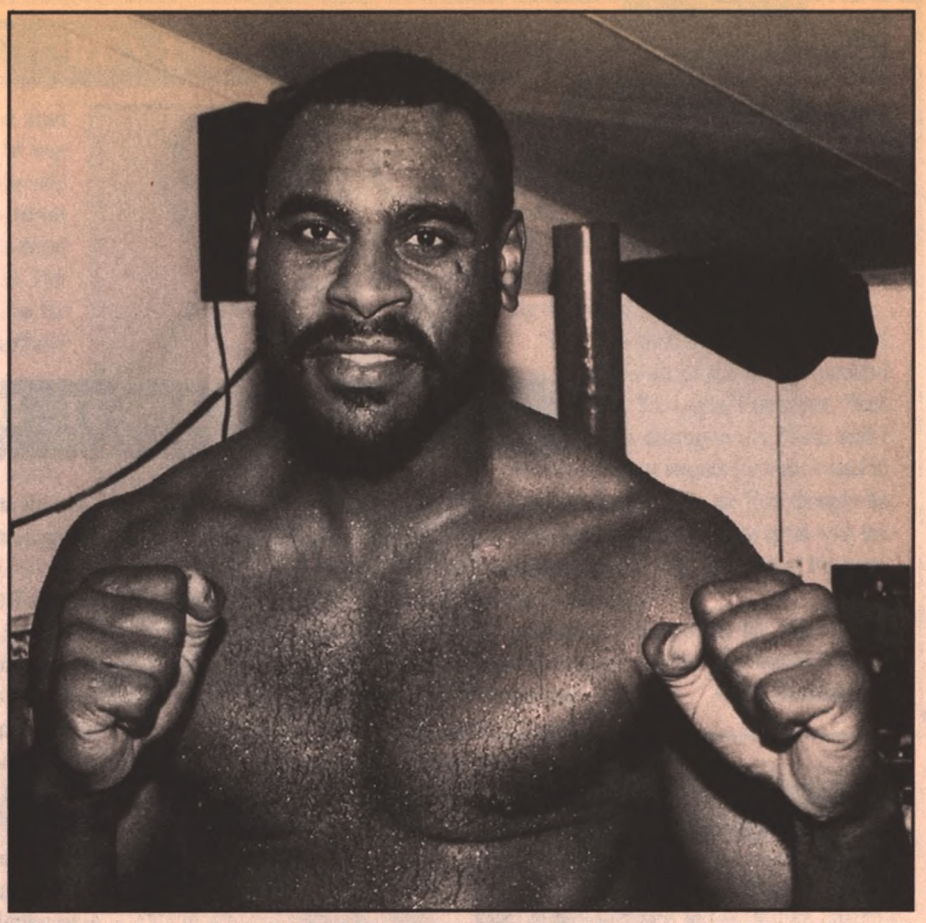
ROB ADAMSKI
West Springfield, MA

THE ATOMIC CHIN

How can you list today's top 10 chins in the sport of boxing (May 2000) and not rank Oliver "The Atomic Bull" McCall? McCall's chin has stood up to some of the biggest punchers in the heavyweight division. Even a huge puncher like Lennox Lewis couldn't even phase The Atomic Bull, despite landing some thunderous blows. In his rematch with Lewis, McCall dropped his hands, and Lennox still couldn't hurt him. Lewis' bombs, which have taken out men like Michael Grant, Andrew Golota, and Razor Ruddock, bounced off of McCall's chin with no effect. Rumor has it that even Mike Tyson couldn't knock McCall off his feet during their years of sparring.

Despite losing his title to Frank Bruno, McCall stood up to the Briton's best punches and didn't even flinch. There's no doubt in my mind (and I'm sure many other boxing fans' minds) that Oliver McCall's chin is among the very best in the sport—if not *the* best.

GARY HORNUNG
Charleston, SC



Oliver McCall may be perceived by some as a little eccentric in the ring, but one thing is certain, says reader Gary Hornung: McCall has one of the best chins in the game today.

FREITAS FRENZY

Is it just me, or is the media snubbing a great Brazilian champion? Acelino "Popo" Freitas recently demolished highly ranked Anatoly Alexandrov in just 60 seconds and knocked out Lemuel Nelson in two rounds, and except for a mention on the Internet, none of the boxing media took notice. Hello?! Anyone listening?! This is Floyd Mayweather's division and possibly a future weight class for Naseem Hamed. I am no Brazilian, but I believe this "Brazilian Bomber," a hero to his country, could eclipse both of those stars on the same night! Ever since I saw Freitas blast through a Boxcino tournament three years ago, I knew he was in a class of his own. His record is now 26-0 (26), and his style is fast, powerful, and exciting. I just wish boxing fans could invest in fighters, because I predict Freitas' stock will soon skyrocket in the fashion of Internet blue chips ... once the media catches on.

RICKY PADRO
West Haven, CT

[Editor's Note: See page 24 of this issue for a feature story on Freitas.] ■

ROUND ONE

REID'S DOMESTIC DEBACLE

As if losing the WBA super welterweight title and his unbeaten record to Felix Trinidad last March wasn't bad enough, now David Reid is facing domestic violence charges in Voorhees Township, New Jersey.

"It was just a big, big misunderstanding," Reid told THE RING. "It's been downgraded to a misdemeanor. There will probably be a fine and some court-ordered counseling."

It sure sounded worse than that when the story originally broke in mid-June. According to newspaper reports in the *Philadelphia Daily News* and *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, during the early hours of June 17, Reid, 26, allegedly punched his live-in girlfriend, dragged her down the stairs of his home, and bit her on the back of the neck. The fighter was arrested shortly afterward, charged with aggravated assault, and then released on $10,000 bond.

Troubled times for Mitchell and Reid

Photo by Brian Cannon/DKP

"They had a squabble," said Al Mitchell, Reid's long-time trainer and mentor. "But they got things straightened out, and she dropped all the charges."

A restraining order stemming from the incident was also issued, then lifted at the woman's request.

Reid was involved in a similar incident in 1996 while in Orlando, Florida, preparing for the Olympics. In that case, he spent a night in jail after allegedly throwing a table lamp at his then-girlfriend. Those charges were also dropped after the woman declined to pursue them.

The latest episode came at a time when Reid's career was undergoing somewhat of a metamorphosis. After the loss to Trinidad in a fight that saw the former Olympic champion get off to an early lead and then get knocked down four times en route to losing a 12-round decision, Reid insisted he should move up to the middleweight division. Originally, there was considerable reluctance on Mitchell's part, but after Reid underwent a series of tests with noted sports nutritionist Mackie Shilstone, it was obvious that the fighter was hurting himself fighting at 154 pounds.

"David wasn't in training, and his body-fat percentage was only 2.9," said Dan Goossen, CEO of America Presents, the Denver-based company that promotes Reid. "He was burning off muscle and not fat during bouts. I think that explains why, over the past year or so, he was noticeably less strong in the second half of the fights than he was in the first half."

Reid, who is recovering from another round of surgery on his problematic left eyelid, anticipates being back in action, as a 160-pounder, by November, and also promises that the most recent occurrence will be his last brush with domestic violence.

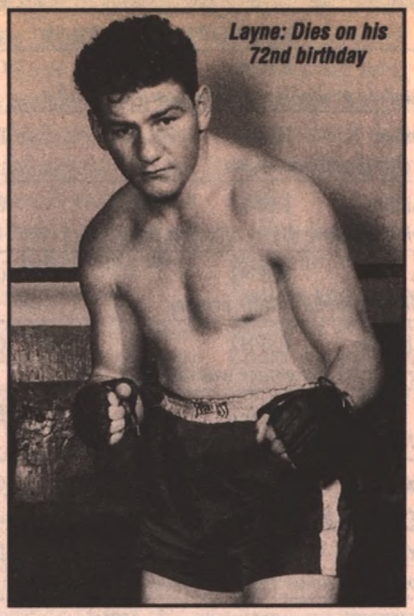
"I really don't need it," he said. "It makes me look bad, especially because I'm a fighter. If something like this ever looks like it might happen again, I'm just going to walk away and come sleep on your couch."

—Nigel Collins

REX LAYNE, 1928-2000

He was prematurely pronounced dead as early as 1951, when the plane he was originally booked for crashed into the side of a mountain. But Rex "The Lewistown Larruper" Layne had 49 good years ahead of him before the final bell sounded. The former heavyweight contender died on his 72nd birthday on June 7, when he suffered a stroke.

In his distinguished career, which spanned from 1949-'56, Layne chalked up a record of 50-17-3 (34) and had a reputation as a heavyweight against whom no champion was eager to defend. Layne's career included a few sparkling victories, most notably over Hall of Famers Jersey Joe Walcott and Ezzard Charles. His biggest fight came against Rocky Marciano at Madison Square Garden on July 12, 1951, in a clash of promising young heavyweights. Layne was actually a 9-5 favorite against "The Brockton Blockbuster," and he stayed with Marciano until the sixth round, when the future heavyweight champ knocked Layne out with a big right hand 35 seconds into the round.



Layne: Dies on his 72nd birthday

"Rex was waiting for a title fight and was bypassed all of the time," recalled Marv Jensen, 83, Layne's manager. "Rex was always a champ in my book, and I always had great respect for him. I used to call him champ, because Rex thought he could beat anyone. Rex was great with the kids; he always took time out of his training to help kids."

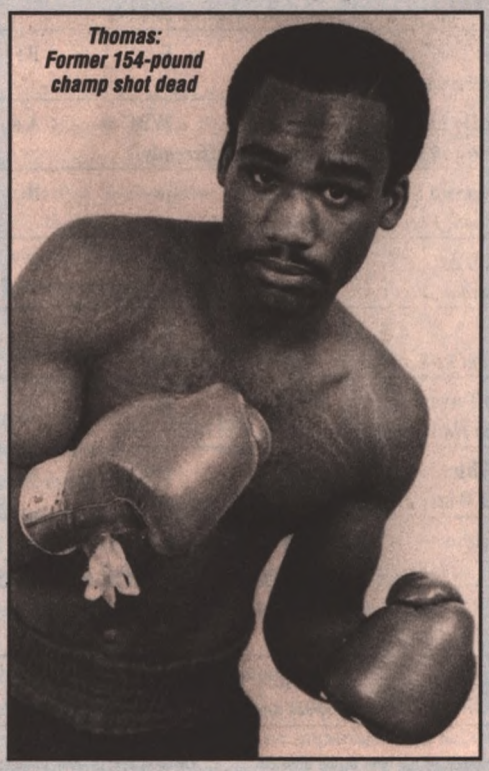
Layne is survived by his wife, Adele, two daughters, and seven grandchildren.

—Joe Santoliquito

DUANE THOMAS, 1961-2000

Just 39 years old and in the beginning stages of a comeback of George Foreman-like improbability, former WBC super welterweight champion Duane Thomas was shot and killed outside a party store on Detroit's east side on June 13. It was a sad and sudden end for the man trainer Emanuel Steward called the toughest of all the fighters to come out of his legendary Kronk Gym.

Thomas, who admitted he'd had drug problems during his career, was seen by witnesses inside the party store with a man identified as a known drug dealer, though published reports varied from Thomas buying drugs to Thomas attempting to prevent the man from selling drugs. An argument ensued and the two went outside, where the dealer pulled a gun and shot Thomas in the chest, stomach, legs, and arms. He was pronounced dead on arrival at Detroit's Receiving Hospital.



Thomas: Former 154-pound champ shot dead

After a 76-6 amateur career, Thomas turned pro in 1979 and tallied 16 straight wins before being kayoed by future world champion Buster Drayton in 1982. He bounced back to win the USBA junior middleweight title from Nino Gonzalez the following year, scored an impressive win over another future champion, Sumbu Kalambay, and finally earned a shot at a world title in December '86. Thomas' third-round knockout of John "The Beast" Mugabi for the WBC belt was a major upset, but the party didn't last long, as Thomas was decisioned by Lupe Aquino in his first defense, and stopped by Gianfranco Rosi in another title attempt in '88.

Thomas retired in October '89, but after a layoff of 10½ years, he returned this past April with a six-round win at light heavyweight over journeyman Abraham Bruno at Joe Louis Arena in Detroit, raising his record to 31-3 (21). He had dreams—probably farfetched—of making another title run, and was also working on setting up a Kronk Gym in London.

"He was talking a few months ago about how well things were going for him," friend Thomas Hearns told the *Detroit Free Press*. "He meant a lot to me. I'm going to miss him very much."

Thomas is survived by a wife and two sons.

—Eric Raskin

TV FIGHTS OF THE MONTH

DATE	WINNER/LOSER	NETWORK	DIVISION	SIGNIFICANCE	MATCHUP	RESULT
6-9-00	J.C. Candelo W 10 Tony Badea	ESPN2	jm	C-	B-	C
If 154 wasn't so packed with talent right now, Candelo probably would be nearing title shot						
6-10-00	Acelino Freitas KO 2 Lemuel Nelson	HBO	jl	B	C	B+
Freitas climbs off canvas to score exciting kayo; this is going to be fun						
6-10-00	Bronco McKart W 12 Jason Papillion	HBO	jm	C+	C-	C+
Can someone tell McKart's managers already who they have to pay off to get a big fight?						
6-16-00	Julio Diaz KO 5 Gustavo Cuello	ESPN2	l	C-	D+	C+
Soon we're going to have to stop referring to Julio as Antonio's little brother						
6-16-00	Antonio Margarito KO 2 David Kamau	ESPN2	w	C-	B-	C
Once useful Kamau looks frail against average guy, even if stoppage was too quick						
6-16-00	Antonio Diaz W 12 Omar Weis	ESPN2	jw	B+	B+	B
Judges Frank Garza, Robert Byrd, and Marshall Walker should be ashamed of themselves						
6-16-00	Juan Lazcano KO 9 Wilfredo Vazquez	Show	l	C	C+	B-
Talented Lazcano pounds Vazquez without pause, sets up match with Jesse James Leija						
6-16-00	Andrew Golota W 10 Orlin Norris	Show	h	B-	B	D
Guess this was supposed to show how Golota would do against Tyson, if Tyson lost his punch and got polite						
6-17-00	**Jose Luis Castillo W 12 Stevie Johnston**	**ABC**	**WBC l**	**A-**	**C**	**B**
Is it live or is it a replay of Johnston-Cesar Bazan I?						
6-17-00	Mia St. John W 4 Linda Robinson	PPV	l	D-	F	C+
Hey Arum, why don't we cut through the crap already and have the chicks fight in thongs and high heels?						
6-17-00	Diego Corrales KO 10 Justin Juuko	PPV	jl	A	C+	B-
Juuko as tough as they come, but Corrales turning out to be even better than we thought						
6-17-00	Erik Morales KO 3 Mike Juarez	PPV	jl	B+	D+	C
Morales looks strong in first step toward featherweight title						
6-17-00	**Shane Mosley W 12 Oscar De La Hoya**	**PPV**	**WBC w**	**A+**	**A+**	**A**
Of course we want to see the rematch, but do you see it turning out any differently?						
6-18-00	Hector Camacho Jr. KO 4 Manard Reed	FOXSN	jw	B	C+	B-
Junior showing some power that Pop never had; Reed stretched out						
6-23-00	Derrick Graham W 10 Emil Baku	ESPN2	jm	C	B+	C+
Another undefeated guy done in by a journeyman; don't you love it when that happens?						
6-23-00	Joe Mesi KO 2 Matt Green	ESPN2	h	D	F	C-
Think about it: Mesi hasn't proved a thing, but he's already too good for Butterbean						
6-23-00	Eric Harding W 12 Antonio Tarver	ESPN2	lh	A-	B+	B+
Tarver can go back to beating bums now, but Harding gets Roy Jones; who really won?						
6-24-00	**Zab Judah W 12 Junior Witter**	**Show**	**IBF jw**	**A**	**D**	**D**
We wouldn't have blamed Judah if he'd hit Witter over the head with his ring stool						
6-24-00	Mike Tyson KO 1 Lou Savarese	Show	h	A-	C+	B
Who'd have predicted Frank Warren would last longer against Tyson than Savarese did? And when did Allah get so pissed?						
6-25-00	Fres Oquendo W 10 Ramon Garbey	FOXSN	h	C+	B	C+
Down early, Oquendo climbs off canvas to take decision						
6-25-00	John Brown W 12 Robbie Peden	FOXSN	jl	B	A	B+
After slow start, Brown comes on to shut down Australian prospect and earn IBF mandatory slot						

Category Explanation: "Significance"—The importance of the bout to the division and the fighters' futures; "Matchup"—The quality of the fighters and the prefight determination of how their styles will mesh; "Result"—How the bout turned out, from the viewer's perspective.

(World title fights in **bold** type)

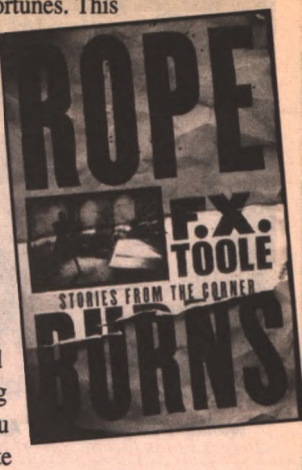
Division key: h—heavyweight; c—cruiserweight; lh—light heavyweight; sm—super middleweight; m—middleweight; jm—junior middleweight; w—welterweight; jw—junior welterweight; l—lightweight; jl—junior lightweight; f—featherweight; jf—junior featherweight; b—bantamweight; jb—junior bantamweight; fl—flyweight; jfl—junior flyweight; s—strawweight

Network key: PPV—Pay-Per-View; Show—Showtime; FOXSN—Fox SportsNet; Uni—Univision; Tel—Telemundo

THE BOXING BOOKSHELF

Based on his collection of boxing-related short fiction entitled *Rope Burns: Stories From The Corner* (The Ecco Press, 272 pages, $23), it would be a stretch to call F.X. Toole, the 69-year-old first-time author, "Special F.X." Not that the stories are bad, mind you. They're well-written and full of fascinating insights acquired over 20 years working as a professional cutman. It's just that, plot-wise, most of them don't go anywhere. A story about a journeyman knocking off an undefeated prospect or about an "opponent" getting screwed out of a decision, without any unexpected twist or clever irony, does not a satisfying story make.

The exception is the thoroughly enjoyable "The Monkey Look," the first story in *Rope Burns* and the one that attracted the attention of Ecco Press. As in most of the stories, the central character is a cutman, in this case a top-notch blood-stopper called in to help a Mexican featherweight by the name of Hoolie get through his big title shot without his battle-scarred face betraying him. When the cutman (whose name we never learn) overhears Hoolie blabbing to his trainer/manager about how he's going to stiff the cutman when the money comes in, the cutman's game plan changes, and so do Hoolie's fortunes. This is a story in which the plot takes an intriguing turn, the characters are compelling, and you really find yourself rooting when you come to the description of the big fight.



For the most part, though, while the writing is colorful and Toole's knowledge of the Sweet Science is extensive, the plots are simply unimaginative. If one good story and a complete understanding of how coagulant works is all you need, then Toole's book may excite you. But if you're the type who feels *The Sixth Sense* would have been instantly forgettable without its twist ending, then *Rope Burns* will leave you yearning for something more.

—Eric Raskin

THE IBF: CLEANER AND DWYER

Sometimes nice guys do finish first, even in boxing. Longtime judge Joe Dwyer, 61, was named chairman of the championship committee of the beleaguered IBF by acting chairwoman Hiawatha Knight in early-June.

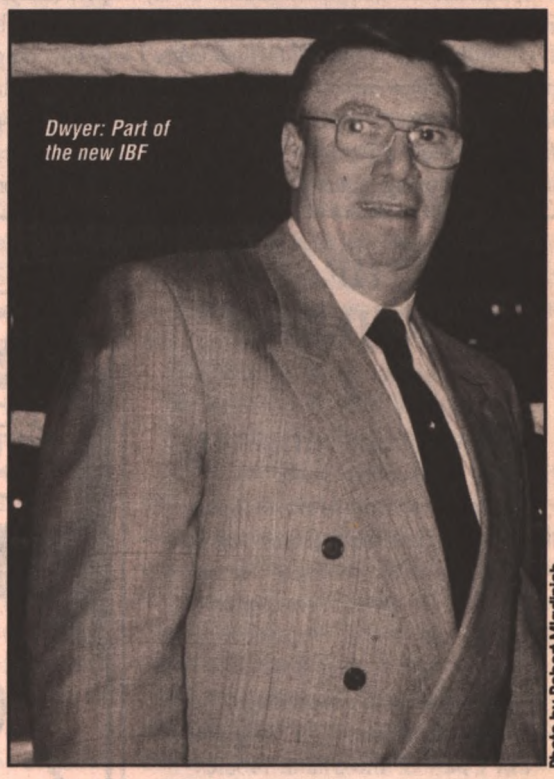

Dwyer: Part of the new IBF

Photo by Robert Mladinich

Dwyer, who served for 34 years as a New York City police officer, 15 of which were spent on the executive board of the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association, has a long and illustrious boxing history. As a Golden Gloves boxer in the '50s, he twice lost to two-time future title challenger Joey Archer and was also the Sixth Fleet champion in the U.S. Navy. After leaving the amateur ranks with a 57-2 record, he was set to turn pro at the Fort Hamilton Arena in Brooklyn in 1957 when fate intervened on the night of his debut.

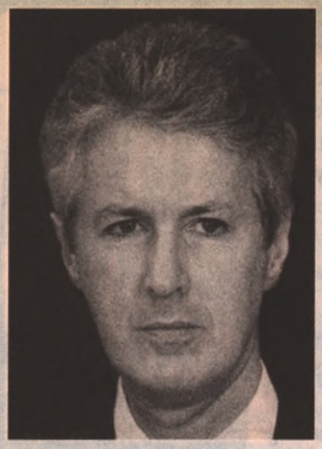
"The promoter suggested I get a manager, and I said I had my manager, Al Morales, who was like a father to me since I was 13 years old," said Dwyer. "He referred to Al as a 'spic,' and I told him right there I would never fight for him. It was a matter of principle. It would have been very disrespectful to Al, as well as the entire sport."

Dwyer has judged eight world title bouts, but he is best known for his work in a non-title bout, when he voted against Larry Holmes in his 1997 fight with Maurice Harris. Holmes won a split decision, a verdict that was viewed by many as the worst of the year. "That is my pride and joy," said Dwyer.

Having served with the NYPD and being involved with officiating for so long, Dwyer, who lives on Long Island, has been married for 40 years, and is the father of three grown children, says there is nothing more important than accountability. "The IBF has the potential to become the ratings organization by which all others are measured," he said. "I know the world is watching us, and I'm glad the world is watching us. We are going to show that there can be indisputable integrity in an often maligned sport. More than anything else, boxing is my passion. I love it too much to ever do anything to bring it down."

—Robert Mladinich

OUTSIDE THE ROPES



Wallau: New president of ABC

Good news for boxing: **Alex Wallau**, the color analyst for what little boxing there's been on ABC in recent years, was named president of the network in late-June. That helps to explain why ABC, after going 21 months without televising boxing, got back into the mix in June with the **Jose Luis Castillo-Steve Johnston** fight, and had at least one more broadcast scheduled for August. Hopefully, Wallau's influence will lead the Sweet Science to return to the network on a regular basis. In addition to his many duties as ABC president, Wallau will continue to provide commentary on the boxing broadcasts ... After nearly 25 years in boxing broadcasting, Showtime analyst **Ferdie Pacheco** announced at the **Andrew Golota-Orlin Norris** fight in mid-June that it would be his last night as a color commentator. "I've decided it's time to move over and let the next wave take over my expert analyst job," Pacheco said. "I think it's time to step aside. I say 'aside' because I will still be part of the Showtime team. I will now do opinion pieces, historical stories, and other duties entailing public relations and representing Showtime." Said Showtime *Championship Boxing* Executive Producer **Jay Larkin**: "Ferdie Pacheco is an icon in the boxing industry. He has a treasure-trove of information and insight to share with the boxing audience, the boxing industry, and the boxing press. And we hope that Ferdie will be a member of our boxing family for a long time." In the fall, Showtime will broadcast "The Fight Doctor's" special, *The 12 Greatest Rounds Of The 20th Century* ... The charges of felony robbery against middleweight contender **Antwun Echols**, which were reported in this space last month, were reduced in mid-June to misdemeanor assault. Echols was accused of hitting a man with a trash can and taking $650 from him, but Echols said the money he took from the man belonged to his cousin ... Two-division former champion **Johnny Tapia's** "vida loca" got a good bit crazier in June and July. Amidst myriad rumors, Tapia acknowledged in late-June that he had been hospitalized in Las Vegas for depression. Shortly thereafter, Tapia was reportedly shot at in a road rage incident, but, fortunately, escaped unharmed. He was, however, re-hospitalized for depression following the incident ... Hispanic boxing fans—or anyone whose cable carrier provides **Univision** and doesn't mind watching fights without understanding the commentary, for that matter—will be pleased to know that, in addition to their occasional Saturday night shows, **Top Rank** has inked a deal with the Spanish-language network for an hour-long show every Sunday, beginning in August.

Tapia: Feeling down

THE PUNCHLINES

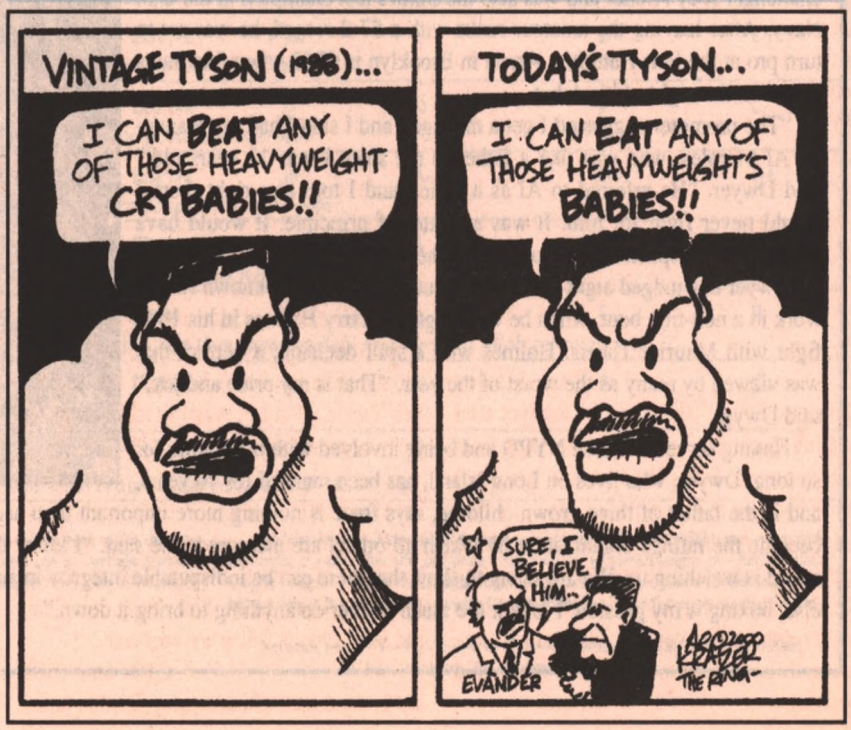
"If I was going to steal somebody, it would be somebody good."

—Promoter Bob Arum, responding to Dan Goossen's claims that he was attempting to steal Hector Camacho Jr. away from America Presents

"My boobs aren't big enough."

—Lucia Rijker, on why she wasn't part of the Shane Mosley-Oscar De La Hoya undercard

AL KRATZER'S VIEW



"THE BIBLE OF BOXING"

RATINGS ANALYSIS

(For period ended July 5, 2000)

POUND-FOR-POUND

1. **SHANE MOSLEY** Welterweight
2. **ROY JONES** Light Heavyweight
3. **FELIX TRINIDAD** Junior Middleweight
4. **OSCAR DE LA HOYA** Welterweight
5. **FLOYD MAYWEATHER** Junior Lightweight
6. **NASEEM HAMED** Featherweight
7. **BERNARD HOPKINS** Middleweight
8. **ERIK MORALES** Junior Featherweight
9. **FERNANDO VARGAS** Junior Middleweight
10. **MARCO ANTONIO BARRERA** Junior Featherweight

HEAVYWEIGHTS: No changes.

CRUISERWEIGHTS: No changes.

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS: Eric Harding (fifth last issue) improves to number three, thanks to his clear-cut decision over previously unbeaten Antonio Tarver (sixth last issue), who falls to eighth. Reggie Johnson (third last issue) and Michael Nunn (fourth last issue) both slip down one spot each due to Harding's advancement. Tarver's decline pushes David Telesco (formerly seventh) and Montell Griffin (previously eighth) up one position each.

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS: Former WBA champ Frankie Liles (ninth last issue) has not fought since losing the title in June '99, and is therefore dropped for inactivity. Guillermo Jones, who had two close title fights with then-WBA 154-pound champ Laurent Boudouani and has since looked impressive at 168 pounds, enters at number 10. Richie Woodhall (10th last issue) nudges into the ninth position due to Liles' departure.

MIDDLEWEIGHTS: No changes.

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS: No changes.

WELTERWEIGHTS: Shane Mosley (previously third) takes over the top spot after beating Oscar De La Hoya, who slips from first to second. James Page (second last issue) drops one spot to accommodate Mosley's rise. Undefeated Australian Shannan Taylor (sixth last issue), who looked ordinary outpointing Charles Whittaker in his American debut, falls to seventh, while veteran Wilfredo Rivera (seventh last issue) moves into Taylor's old position.

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS: Streaking Hector Camacho Jr. (10th last issue) trades places with Teddy Reid (formerly ninth).

LIGHTWEIGHTS: Unheralded Jose Luis Castillo rockets into the number-one spot after outpointing heavily favored Steve Johnston for the WBC belt. Johnston (first last issue), descends to second. Having a formerly unranked man at the top also forced down Angel Manfredy (second last issue), Paul Spadafora (third last issue) and Cesar Bazan (fourth last issue) to third, fourth, and fifth, respectively. New WBA titlist Takanori Hatakeyama debuts at number six after knocking out Gilberto Serrano (fifth last issue). Serrano exits, as does Ben Tackie (10th last issue) to make room for the two new entrants.

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS: Brazilian knockout artist Acelino Freitas (eighth last issue) jumps up to number four following his knockout of Lemuel Nelson. This results in Jongkwon Baek, Lakva Sim, Yong Soo Choi, and Jesus Chavez falling one spot each.

FEATHERWEIGHTS: Cesar Soto (fifth last issue) departs after dropping down to junior featherweight and losing to Oscar Larios. Soto's removal lifted everybody below him last issue up one spot and allows room for Cassius Baloyi at number 10.

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS: Larios' win over Soto is good enough for him to replace Michael Brodie in 10th place.

BANTAMWEIGHTS: Nana Konadu (fifth last issue) falls out due to inactivity. This boosts the five fighters immediately below him up one spot each and allows Saohin Sithchai Condo to come aboard at 10th.

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS: Ratanachai Vorapin (seventh last issue) departs due to inactivity. Felix Machado, who was unlucky to only receive a draw against Julio Gamboa in a battle for the vacant IBF belt, debuts at number 10.

FLYWEIGHTS: No changes.

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS: No changes.

STRAWWEIGHTS: No changes.

POUND-FOR-POUND: Shane Mosley's elevation to the number-one position and Roy Jones' slide to number two are explained in this issue's cover story *(see page 35)*. The reasons for other changes are as follows: Felix Trinidad (second last issue) and Oscar De La Hoya (formerly third) both drop one spot each to third and fourth, respectively, in order to accommodate Mosley's advancement. Although they retain their high rankings in the divisions they fight in, Mark Johnson (sixth last issue) and Ricardo Lopez (seventh last issue) are gone from the pound-for-pound rankings due to inactivity. Steve Johnston (ninth last issue) also departs after losing to upstart Castillo. Filling the open spots are Erik Morales, Fernando Vargas, and Marco Antonio Barrera. ■

THE RING RATINGS

For Period Ended July 5, 2000

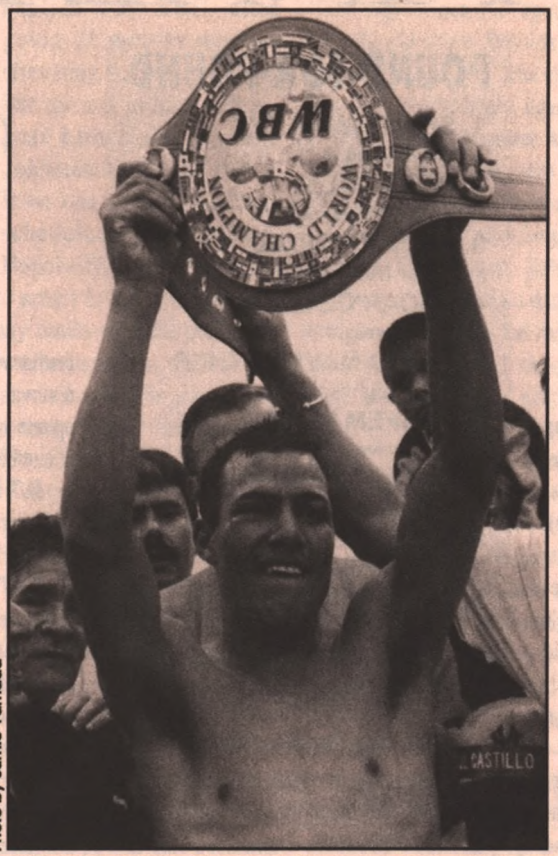


Photo by Sumio Yamada

Jose Luis Castillo turned the lightweight division–and his new belt–upside down

How Our Ratings Are Compiled

In each division, fighters are ranked according to their abilities and accomplishments.

Being champion does not necessarily mean a fighter will be rated at the top of his weight class.

These ratings reflect how the best fighters in the world rate against one another.

Ratings By The Editors

Records By Fight Fax Inc.

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight Unlimited

1. **LENNOX LEWIS** England 36-1-1 (WBC/IBF Champ)
2. **EVANDER HOLYFIELD** Fairburn, GA 36-4-1
3. **DAVID TUA** New Zealand 36-1
4. **OLEG MASKAEV** Staten Island, NY 20-2
5. **MIKE TYSON** Catskill, NY 48-3
6. **MICHAEL GRANT** Norristown, PA 31-1
7. **CHRIS BYRD** Flint, MI 31-1
8. **ANDREW GOLOTA** Chicago, IL 36-4
9. **HASIM RAHMAN** Baltimore, MD 33-2
10. **DAVID IZON** Pensacola, FL 26-3

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 154 pounds

1. **FELIX TRINIDAD** Puerto Rico 37-0 (WBA Champ)
2. **FERNANDO VARGAS** Oxnard, CA 19-0 (IBF Champ)
3. **DAVID REID** Philadelphia, PA 14-1
4. **IKE QUARTEY** Ghana 34-2-1
5. **FRANCISCO CASTILLEJO** Spain 49-4 (WBC Champ)
6. **HARRY SIMON** Namibia 19-0
7. **WINKY WRIGHT** St. Petersburg, FL 39-3
8. **BRONCO McKART** Monroe, MI 42-2
9. **TONY MARSHALL** Albany, NY 34-7-6
10. **KEITH MULLINGS** Brooklyn, NY 16-6-1

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 126 pounds

1. **NASEEM HAMED** England 34-0
2. **FRED NORWOOD** St. Louis, MO 37-0-1 (WBA Champ)
3. **PAUL INGLE** England 23-1 (IBF Champ)
4. **GUTY ESPADAS** Mexico 33-2 (WBC Champ)
5. **JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ** Mexico 31-2
6. **MANUEL MEDINA** Mexico 57-11
7. **MBULELO BOTILE** South Africa 26-1
8. **JUAN CARLOS RAMIREZ** Mexico 20-2
9. **ANGEL VAZQUEZ** Hartford, CT 20-0
10. **CASSIUS BALOYI** South Africa 23-0

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 122 pounds

1. **MARCO ANTONIO BARRERA** Mexico 50-3
2. **ERIK MORALES** Mexico 37-0 (WBC Champ)
3. **BONES ADAMS** Henderson, KY 39-3-3 (WBA Champ)
4. **LEHLO LEDWABA** South Africa 30-1-1 (IBF Champ)
5. **WAYNE McCULLOUGH** Las Vegas, NV 23-3
6. **NESTOR GARZA** Mexico 38-2
7. **ENRIQUE SANCHEZ** Mexico 26-1-1
8. **ANTONIO CERMENO** Venezuela 38-3
9. **MANNY PACQUAIO** Philippines 28-2
10. **OSCAR LARIOS** Mexico 37-2-1

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 118 pounds

1. **TIM AUSTIN** Cincinnati, OH 20-0-1 (IBF Champ)
2. **PAULIE AYALA** Ft. Worth, TX 30-1 (WBA Champ)
3. **JOHNNY TAPIA** Albuquerque, NM 48-1-2
4. **VEERAPOL SAHAPROM** Thailand 27-1 (WBC Champ)
5. **JORGE ELIECER JULIO** Colombia 42-2
6. **CUAUHTEMOC GOMEZ** Mexico 47-7
7. **JOHNNY BREDAHL** Denmark 45-2
8. **ADAN VARGAS** Mexico 33-2-1
9. **JORGE LACIERVA** Mexico 16-3-3
10. **SAOHIN SITHCHAI CONDO** Thailand29-9

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 190 pounds

1. **JUAN CARLOS GOMEZ**
   Germany *31-0 (WBC Champ)*
2. **VASSILIY JIROV**
   Kazakhstan *25-0 (IBF Champ)*
3. **FABRICE TIOZZO**
   France *42-1 (WBA Champ)*
4. **JOHNNY NELSON**
   England *37-12-1*
5. **MARCELO DOMINGUEZ**
   Argentina *29-3-1*
6. **ARTHUR WILLIAMS**
   Pensacola, FL *32-5-1*
7. **JAMES TONEY**
   Las Vegas, NV *59-4-2*
8. **CARL THOMPSON**
   England *26-5*
9. **VIRGIL HILL**
   Bismarck, ND *45-3*
10. **SAUL MONTANA**
    Mexico *33-7*

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 175 pounds

1. **ROY JONES**
   Pensacola, FL *42-1 (WBC/WBA/IBF Champ)*
2. **DARIUSZ MICHALCZEWSKI**
   Germany *42-0*
3. **ERIC HARDING**
   Philadephia, PA *19-0-1*
4. **REGGIE JOHNSON**
   Houston, TX *40-6-1*
5. **MICHAEL NUNN**
   Davenport, IA *54-4*
6. **DAVID TELESCO**
   Port Chester, NY *23-3*
7. **MONTELL GRIFFIN**
   Chicago, IL *39-3*
8. **ANTONIO TARVER**
   Orlando, FL *16-1*
9. **GREG WRIGHT**
   Bronx, NY *18-5-2*
10. **DERRICK HARMON**
    Chicago, IL *20-1*

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 168 pounds

1. **SVEN OTTKE**
   Germany *19-0 (IBF Champ)*
2. **BRUNO GIRARD**
   France *37-3-1 (WBA Champ)*
3. **GLENN CATLEY**
   England *26-3 (WBC Champ)*
4. **JOE CALZAGHE**
   Wales *28-0*
5. **CHARLES BREWER**
   Philadelphia, PA *35-6*
6. **THOMAS TATE**
   Houston, TX *38-6*
7. **BYRON MITCHELL**
   Ozark, AL *20-1-1*
8. **MARKUS BEYER**
   Germany *18-1*
9. **RICHIE WOODHALL**
   England *26-2*
10. **GUILLERMO JONES**
    Panama *26-2-1*

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 160 pounds

1. **BERNARD HOPKINS**
   Philadelphia, PA *37-2-1 (IBF Champ)*
2. **WILLIAM JOPPY**
   Washington, D.C. *30-1-1 (WBA Champ)*
3. **KEITH HOLMES**
   Washington, D.C. *35-2 (WBC Champ)*
4. **ANTWUN ECHOLS**
   Davenport, IA *24-3-1*
5. **HASSINE CHERIFI**
   France *30-3-1*
6. **ARMAND KRAJNC**
   Sweden *23-0*
7. **DAVEY HILTON**
   Canada *38-1-3*
8. **BERT SCHENK**
   Germany *24-0*
9. **BRIAN BARBOSA**
   Passaic, NJ *28-4*
10. **ANDREW COUNCIL**
    Washington, D.C. *30-7-3*

WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 147 pounds

1. **SHANE MOSLEY**
   Pomona, CA *35-0 (WBC Champ)*
2. **OSCAR DE LA HOYA**
   Whittier, CA *32-2*
3. **JAMES PAGE**
   Pittsburg, CA *25-3 (WBA Champ)*
4. **VERNON FORREST**
   Atlanta, GA *31-0*
5. **OBA CARR**
   Detroit, MI *51-3-1*
6. **WILFREDO RIVERA**
   Puerto Rico *30-4-1*
7. **SHANNAN TAYLOR**
   Australia *27-0-1*
8. **THOMAS DAMGAARD**
   Denmark *20-0*
9. **DERRELL COLEY**
   Capitol Heights, MD *34-2-2*
10. **ANDREW LEWIS**
    Guyana *19-0-1*

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 140 pounds

1. **KOSTYA TSZYU**
   Australia *24-1-1 (WBC Champ)*
2. **SHARMBA MITCHELL**
   Washington, D.C. *46-2 (WBA Champ)*
3. **TERRONN MILLETT**
   St. Louis, MO *22-1-1*
4. **ZAB JUDAH**
   Brooklyn, NY *23-0 (IBF Champ)*
5. **RANDALL BAILEY**
   Miami, FL *21-0*
6. **ANTONIO DIAZ**
   Coachella, CA *32-2*
7. **MICKY WARD**
   Lowell, MA *35-9*
8. **REGGIE GREEN**
   Clinton, MD *33-4*
9. **HECTOR CAMACHO JR**
   Puerto Rico *28-0*
10. **TEDDY REID**
    Washington, D.C. *16-3-1*

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 135 pounds

1. **JOSE LUIS CASTILLO**
   Mexico *41-4 (WBC Champ)*
2. **STEVE JOHNSTON**
   Denver, CO *30-2*
3. **ANGEL MANFREDY**
   Gary, IN *33-4-1*
4. **PAUL SPADAFORA**
   Pittsburgh, PA *30-0 (IBF Champ)*
5. **CESAR BAZAN**
   Mexico *37-3-1*
6. **TAKANORI HATAKEYAMA**
   Japan *23-1-2 (WBA Champ)*
7. **ARTUR GRIGORIAN**
   Uzbekistan *30-0*
8. **IVAN ROBINSON**
   Philadelphia, PA *29-4*
9. **JAMES LEIJA**
   San Antonio, TX *40-4-2*
10. **JOHN-JOHN MOLINA**
    Puerto Rico *51-6*

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 130 pounds

1. **FLOYD MAYWEATHER**
   Grand Rapids, MI *23-0 (WBC Champ)*
2. **DIEGO CORRALES**
   Sacramento, CA *32-0 (IBF Champ)*
3. **JOEL CASAMAYOR**
   Miami, FL *21-0 (WBA Champ)*
4. **ACELINO FREITAS**
   Brazil *26-0*
5. **JONGKWON BAEK**
   South Korea *21-1-1*
6. **LAKVA SIM**
   Mongolia *12-2-1*
7. **YONG SOO CHOI**
   South Korea *27-3-1*
8. **JESUS CHAVEZ**
   Austin, TX *31-1*
9. **GOYO VARGAS**
   Mexico *40-7-1*
10. **ROBERTO GARCIA**
    Oxnard, CA *32-2*

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 115 pounds

1. **MARK JOHNSON**
   Washington, D.C. *38-1*
2. **IN JOO CHO**
   South Korea *18-0 (WBC Champ)*
3. **HIDEKI TODAKA**
   Japan *17-2-1 (WBA Champ)*
4. **JESUS ROJAS**
   Venezuela *33-8-3*
5. **GERRY PENALOSA**
   Philippines *41-3-2*
6. **YOKTHAI SITHOAR**
   Thailand *22-1-1*
7. **JOEL LUNA-ZARATE**
   Mexico *33-3-2*
8. **ERIC MOREL**
   Madison, WI *25-0*
9. **SAMSON TOYOTA-THAILAND**
   Thailand *36-0*
10. **FELIX MACHADO**
    Venezuela *18-3-1*

FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 112 pounds

1. **SORNPICHAI SINGWANGCHA**
   Thailand *19-0 (WBA Champ)*
2. **MALCOLM TUNACAO**
   Philippines *11-0 (WBC Champ)*
3. **IRENE PACHECO**
   Colombia *24-0 (IBF Champ)*
4. **CHATCHAI DUTCHBOY GYM**
   Thailand *37-2*
5. **MEDGOEN TOYOTA-THAILAND**
   Thailand *20-1*
6. **LEO GAMEZ**
   Venezuela *32-7-1*
7. **SAEN SOR PLOENCHIT**
   Thailand *38-1*
8. **JOSE BONILLA**
   Venezuela *27-5*
9. **ALEJANDRO MONTIEL**
   Mexico *42-3*
10. **ISIDRO GARCIA**
    Los Angeles, CA *20-1-1*

JR. FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 108 pounds

1. **RICARDO LOPEZ**
   Mexico *48-0-1 (IBF Champ)*
2. **YOSAM CHOI**
   South Korea *22-1 (WBC Champ)*
3. **PICHIT C. SIRIWAT**
   Thailand *22-1 (WBA Champ)*
4. **ROSENDO ALVAREZ**
   Nicaragua *26-1-1*
5. **SAMAN SORJATURONG**
   Thailand *42-3-1*
6. **HAWK MAKEPULA**
   South Africa *18-0*
7. **MELCHOR COB-CASTRO**
   Mexico *58-6-4*
8. **WILL GRIGSBY**
   St. Paul, MN *14-2-1*
9. **JORGE ARCE**
   Mexico *22-3-1*
10. **HIDENOBU HONDA**
    Japan *20-1*

STRAWWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 105 pounds

1. **ZOLANI PETELO**
   South Africa *16-2-2 (IBF Champ)*
2. **JOSE AGUIRRE**
   Mexico *22-1-1 (WBC Champ)*
3. **CHANA PORPAOIN**
   Thailand *41-1-1*
4. **NOEL ARAMBULET**
   Venezuela *12-1-1 (WBA Champ)*
5. **WANDEE SINGWANGCHA**
   Thailand *25-4*
6. **SONGKRAM PORPAOIN**
   Thailand *20-2-1*
7. **KERMIN GUARDIA**
   Columbia *32-2*
8. **JOSE GARCIA**
   Colombia *22-5-1*
9. **JOMA GAMBOA**
   Philippines *28-5-1*
10. **DANIEL REYES**
    Colombia *24-0*

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June 1984: Bumphus, Lockridge, Duva: 'That Championship Year.' Plus: Ferdie Pacheco, Harry Arroyo, Holmes-Coetzee preview, Pipino Cuevas, Aaron Pryor, Battling Nelson-Joe Gans, Witherspoon-Page.

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Oct. 1984: The Beast From The East: John Mugabi Strikes Terror Into The Hearts Of Men. Plus: Olympics, Bill Costello, Davey Moore, Wilfred Benitez, King's heavyweights.

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Feb. 1985: Showdown: Page Clobbers Coetzee For WBA Title. Plus: Larry Holmes, lightweights, Cooney-Chaplin, McCallum-Minchillo.

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Jan. 1986: In Search Of A Heavyweight Champion. Plus: Azumah Nelson, Arguello-Jefferson, Olympic update, Chicago boxing.

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April 1986: Witherspoon Tames Tubbs For WBA Title. Plus: Dream fights, Greg Haugen, Tyrell Biggs, Mark Breland, Paul Gonzales, HBO tourney, Witherspoon-Tubbs, Frank Warren, Gene Tunney.

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April 1987: Hagler-Leonard Souvenir Issue. Plus: Czyz, Orlando Canizales, Mugabi-Thomas, Biggs-Snipes, Chavez-LaPorte, Bonecrusher-Witherspoon II, Haugen-Paul.

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Dec. 1987: Spinks & Lewis: Boxing's Beastie Boys. Plus: Starling-Breland, Ramzi Hassan, Honeyghan-Hatcher, Holyfield-Ocasio.

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April 1988: Evander Holyfield: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Special year-end awards, Holyfield-Qawi II, Foreman-Sekorski, Hill-Angulo.

May 1988: George Foreman: "I Can Beat Tyson." Plus: Tyson-Holmes, Jesse Benavides, Showtime, no-knockout artists.

Aug. 1988: Julio Cesar Chavez: The Kid From Culiacan. Plus: Holyfield, bad decisions, Lockridge-Knight, Starling-Breland II, Brown-Trice, Haugen-Santana.

Sept. 1988: Sugar Ray: Here He Comes Again! Plus: Andries-Czyz, Kid Chocolate, Don Dunphy, Don Lalonde.

Oct. 1988: Mike Tyson: What Price Glory? Plus: Tyson-Spinks, Hearns-Barkley, Davey Moore.

Nov. 1988: Donny Lalonde: "Sugar Ray Is Out Of His Mind!" Plus: Hall of Fame selections (Carlos Ortiz, Joe Brown, Billy Graham, Cus D'Amato, Jimmy Jacobs), Nunn-Tate, Molinares-Starling, Honeyghan-Chung, '88 Olympians.

Jan. 1989: Meldrick Taylor: Philly Phenom. Plus: Marvin Hagler, Alex Wallau, Taylor-McGirt, Olympic results.

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July 1992: Does Larry Holmes Deserve A Title Shot? Plus: Nelson-Fenech II, Tracy Patterson, Kelley-Dorsey, fat fighters, Buchanan-Camacho, Holmes-Ali (color).

Aug. 1992: Holyfield-Holmes Prefight. Holmes: "I See Me Takin' Holyfield Outta There." Plus: Iran Barkley, Herbie Hide, George Foreman, Tex Cobb, Carnival of Champions, Harry Greb, Haugen-Mancini, Oscar De La Hoya, Gene Tunney (color).

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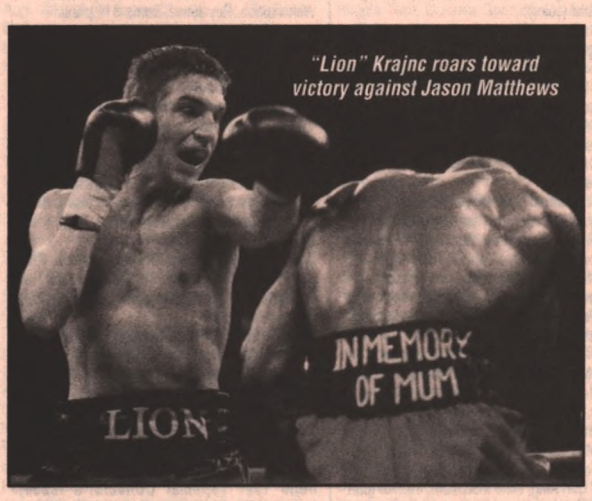
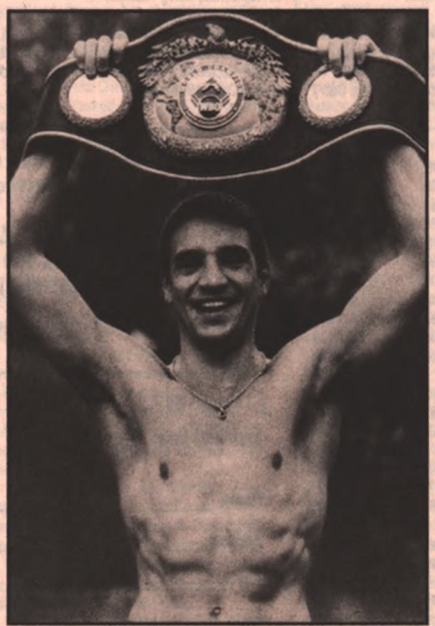


"Lion" Krajnc roars toward victory against Jason Matthews

The law banning professional boxing in Sweden, which went into effect on January 1, 1970, was meant to kill the sport in Scandinavia. But it failed miserably. Pro boxing never died in Sweden; it just went into exile, as its most talented practitioners were forced to leave the country in order to further their careers. The latest Swedish fighter to follow his dream beyond the borders of his homeland is undefeated middleweight contender Armand "Lion" Krajnc, who currently holds down the number-six position in THE RING's 160-pound ratings.

Krajnc was born on August 7, 1973, in the small town of Landskrona, outside of Malmoe in the southern part of Sweden, the oldest son of Slovenian immigrants Stefania and Vinco Krajnc. Armand began his fighting career in the martial arts, participating in both karate and kickboxing as a boy. He switched to amateur boxing, which is still legal in Sweden, at age 16. He began in Landskrona, but the bulk of his amateur bouts were fought under the auspices of Hollviken Boxing Club in Malmoe.



He won the Swedish under-19 championship in '92, but couldn't get past two-time Swedish Olympian Roger Pettersson, who beat Krajnc in 1995 and '96. Actually, Krajnc had Pettersson on the verge of defeat in the finals of the '95 Swedish amateur championship, but realized too late how badly he had hurt his opponent. Since Krajnc's success as a pro, much has been made in the press of the fact that he could never beat Pettersson, but Pettersson himself has cooled much of the criticism.

"I was the slicker boxer of the two of us then," said Pettersson, "but I did feel his

(Continued on page 59)

PRO RECORD

1996		
Oct. 5	Feruzi Ilunga, Cologne, Germany	KO 3
Dec. 13	Francesco Fiorentino, Hanover, Germany	KO 2
Dec. 16	Anton Lascek, Hamburg, Germany	KO 1
1997		
Jan. 11	Gejza Stipak, Berlin, Germany	KO 1
March 8	Lajos Patko, Cologne	KO 1
April 26	Steffan Magyar, Zurich, Switzerland	KO 1
June 14	Youcef Bakhouche, Aachen, Germany	KO 2
Sept. 7	Gyorgi Miszcy, Hamburg	W 6
Oct. 11	Djaafar Filali, Cottbus, Germany	KO 3
Dec. 20	Mimoun Khadda, Offenburg, Germany	KO 2
1998		
Feb. 14	Vedran Akrap, Stuttgart, Germany	W 10
March 14	Bahri Ahmeti, Hamburg	W 8
May 2	Danny Defevere, Luebeck, Germany	KO 2
Oct. 24	Jean-Paul D'Alessandro, Hamburg	KO 5
Nov. 14	Leroy Owens, Munich, Germany	W 8
Nov. 28	Anthony Ivory, Luebeck	W 6
1999		
Feb. 13	James McCray, Stuttgart	KO 3
March 13	Csaba Olah, Luebeck	W 6
April 24	Cristian Velea, Munich	KO 3
July 10	Michel Simeon, Augsburg, Germany	KO 3
Sept. 18	Peter Kluge, Stuttgart	KO 5
Nov. 27	Jason Matthews, Luebeck	KO 8
2000		
March 11	Jonathan Corn, Luebeck	KO 2

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- Marciano's KOs Walcott
- Robinson slugs Gavilan
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RYAN OUT LOUD

By Jeff Ryan

THE BOYS OF SUMMER

You don't have to be a senorita sending perfumed missives to Oscar De La Hoya, or a parking lot attendant who was once roughed up by Mike Tyson, to be somewhat disturbed by the way events played out in the ring in June. Nobody ever said boxing was fair, but when it penalizes one guy for taking a most difficult path and rewards another guy for choosing an incredibly safe one, well, that's tough for even the most jaded of ringsiders to swallow.

While the full impact of De La Hoya's split-decision defeat to Shane Mosley and Tyson's 38-second dismantling of Lou Savarese is still to be determined, it's safe to say that "The Golden Boy's" stock has dropped while "Kid Dynamite's" has risen. Suddenly, it's Mosley, not De La Hoya, who's the most attractive rival for Felix Trinidad and Fernando Vargas. Meanwhile, Tyson has practically guaranteed himself a shot at the heavyweight title and an accompanying purse expected to be so great, that even he might have a hard time squandering it.

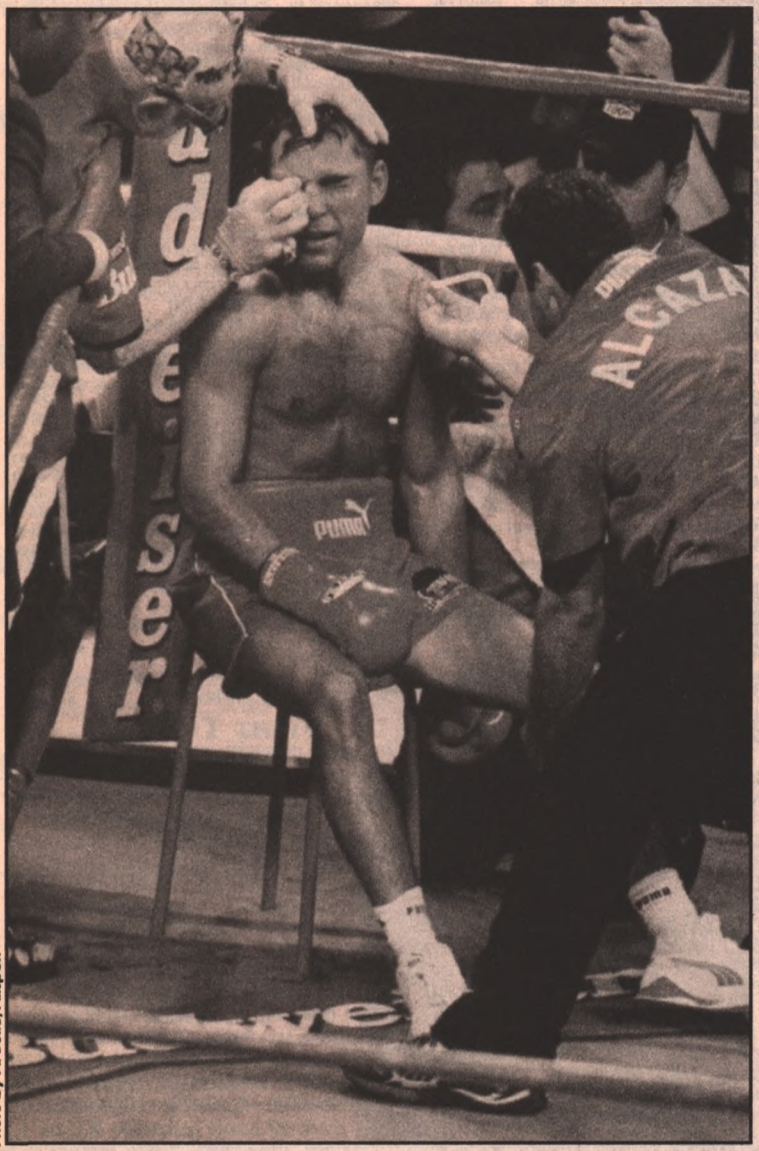


Photo by Al Bello/Allsport

Oscar should be praised, not punished for his punishing schedule

What's wrong with this picture?

Plenty.

It's hard to imagine that De La Hoya could have met our demands any better than he did over the past year-and-a-half. Growing increasingly impatient with his reluctance to face elite competition, we in the media took to our keyboards and attacked him, and he responded with a schedule that featured Ike Quartey, Oba Carr, Felix Trinidad, Derrell Coley, and Mosley in succession. At a time when the obituary was being written for L.A. boxing, De La Hoya returned to his hometown in the nick of time for the Mosley clash. And after repeatedly hearing that he'd asked for the scorecard screwing he got by running away from Trinidad in the late rounds, De La Hoya dug in against Mosley and battled like a warrior to the final bell.

Conversely, while we've been making demands of Tyson, he's been giving us all the bird. (And we're not talking Chris Byrd.) No one was satisfied with the ending against Orlin Norris, or the choice of opponent in Julius Francis. No matter, Tyson decided to go after another softie in Savarese. Even worse than the glass-templed Savarese dropping 12 seconds into the contest was Tyson maneuvering around referee John Coyle after the fight had been waved off and continuing swinging, a la Tony Ayala vs. Robbie Epps and Vinny Pazienza vs. Dana Rosenblatt. Rules? What rules?

Then, just in case there were still three or four peo-

ple watching who weren't yet repulsed by Tyson's antics, he launched into a postfight tirade about being as good as Sonny Liston and Jack Dempsey and wanting to eat heavyweight king Lennox Lewis' children. Adopting Jim Lampley's vocabulary for an instant, Tyson labeled himself "impetuous" and "impregnable." While he was memorizing that page of the dictionary, he should have also looked up the word "imbecile," next to which he would have found his picture.

If Tyson's boorish behavior was an attempt to gain attention, it worked great. Local TV sportscasters who are as attuned to boxing as THE RING staff is to Latvian politics, dutifully "reported" on Tyson-Savarese as if it was an important title bout. The locals weren't permitted to replay any fight action, but that dilly of a postfight interview did get repeated airings. And, although they don't know Lou Savarese from Lou Brock, the talking heads predictably overreacted to the time of the kayo, pointing to it as proof that the old nosebone-into-the-brain destroyer was back. (It must have been at times like those that Elvis shot out his TV screen.)

Photo by John Gichigi/Allsport

Coyle raised Tyson's arm despite Mike's bad behavior

So now Tyson gets Andrew Golota and then, we assume, Lewis. (Geez, if Tyson can manage to squeeze a 25-second knockout of Al Cole or Nate Tubbs in there somewhere, he'd probably command more money for the Lewis bout than the champion would.) De La Hoya, hopefully, lands a Mosley rematch. Regardless of what his next move is, though, The Golden Boy has lost a lot of his gleam. And though he'd never admit it, he has to be second-guessing himself for accepting so many difficult fights in such a short period of time. (No good deed goes unpunished?) Think about it: After making a conscious effort to lose that "Chicken" moniker, De La Hoya displayed the kind of willingness to take on all challengers that hadn't been seen since, ironically, the prime of Tyson.

Perhaps De La Hoya's stumble was inevitable. He doesn't possess the talent of Sugar Ray Leonard, and even Leonard discovered you can't win 'em all when you're facing one upper-echelon opponent after another. De La Hoya's punch isn't what it was at lightweight, he's often a slow starter, and it's not unrealistic to think judges might want to humble a kid with his looks, wealth, celebrity status, and cockiness. Take all that into account, and the odds were long that De La Hoya was ever going to get through 2000 and 2001—Mosley, Trinidad rematch, Vargas, Kostya Tszyu—without a setback.

Tyson, of course, doesn't have to worry about any of that as he moves toward *his* next superfight. He almost always starts quickly, the power is still there, and the judges are never a factor. Heck, he hasn't had one of his fights go to the scorecards in nine years. On paper, Golota looks like a test, but we know better, don't we? One taste of Tyson's best left hook, and Golota will surrender. If he surrenders on his back, instead of verbally, the Tyson hype machine will be in full swing and, as far as the 11 o'clock news anchors and the Jay Lenos are concerned, it will be 1988 all over again.

Today, more than ever, boxing is a what-have-you-done-for-me-lately sport. One loss is a career blemish akin not to a clogged pore, but to a six-inch scar. Long-term cable-TV contracts usually stipulate that one loss means termination. (It's a good thing Archie Moore and Bob Montgomery never applied to HBO for work.) The magazine covers become fewer, and the talk shows don't call as often. Never mind that De La Hoya, who still has a lot of career ahead of him, learned more against Trinidad and Mosley than he could have while knocking out a dozen sacrificial lambs. Never mind that he lost by split decision, and by just two points on one of the cards that favored Mosley. The bottom line is that De La Hoya faltered, this time legitimately, and that will hurt him for a while.

On the other hand, Tyson, clutch performer that he is, gave the mainstream what it wants from boxing: brutality, rulebreaking, a quick finish, controversy, and enough sour attitude to put the game in a bad light. De La Hoya fought his heart out. Tyson spewed his venom out. De La Hoya lost to the fighter THE RING now rates as the best, pound-for-pound, in the world. Tyson knocked out a guy who hadn't fought in a year. De La Hoya ran the obstacle course, Tyson jogged down the straightaway.

Here's another word taken from that page of Iron Mike's dictionary: inequitable. ■

CAMERA CLICKS

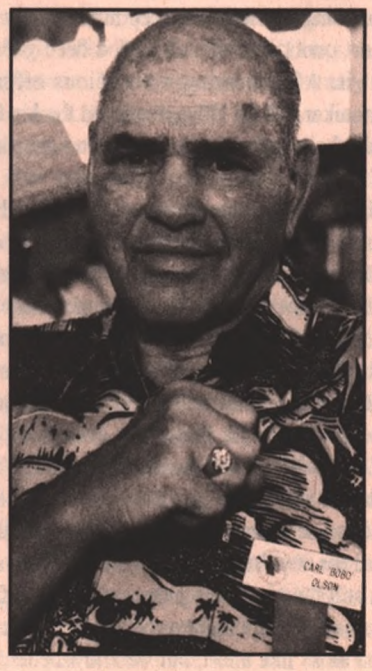
International Boxing Hall of Fame Induction Weekend

Photos by Pat Orr

1992 inductee Alexis Arguello and '96 inductee Aaron Pryor congratulate Ken Buchanan not only on being voted into the Hall of Fame, but also on being the best dressed member of the Class of 2000. If only former lightweight champ Buchanan had been wearing that metal plate over his crotch against Roberto Duran, his whole career might have turned out differently.

No, it's not Butterbean's training table. It's one of the most popular events of every Hall of Fame weekend, Carmen Basilio's Italian Sausage Cookout. The pride of Canastota, New York, Basilio is almost as skilled with a set of tongs and a spatula as he was with a pair of gloves.

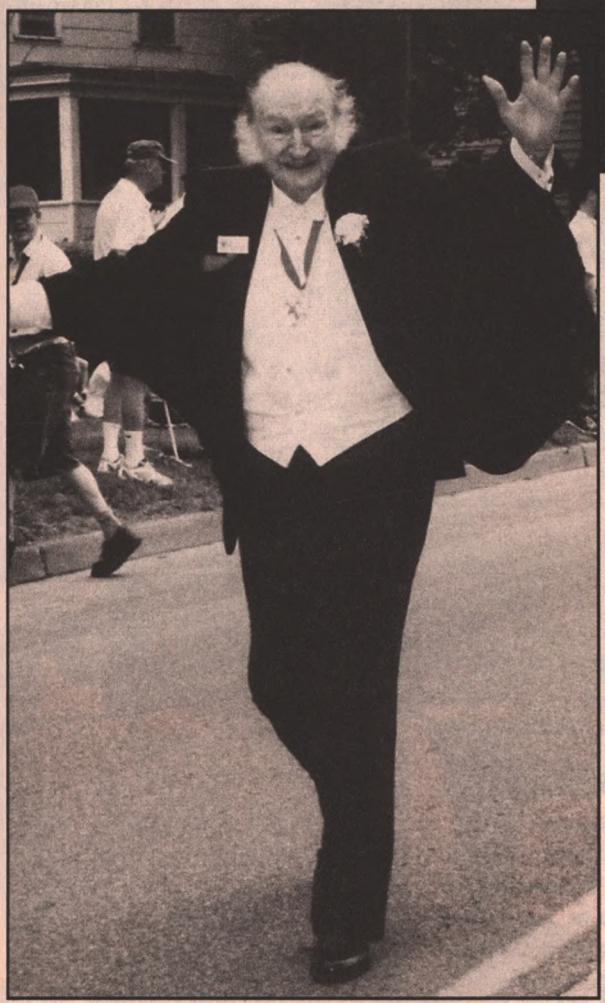
Two very good heavyweights from an era when being very good wasn't always enough, Jimmy Ellis and George Chuvalo, hang out at the Hall. They may not be Hall of Famers themselves, but Ellis and Chuvalo sure know what it's like to share the ring with the legends, having combined for seven fights against Muhammad Ali, Joe Frazier, and Floyd Patterson.



New inductee Carl "Bobo" Olson balls up a Hall of Fame fist for the camera. The 81-year-old former middleweight champion was the only one of this year's inductees ever to be named THE RING Fighter of the Year, an honor he won in 1953.

For the great Argentine promoter Tito Lectoure, it wasn't just his Hall of Fame induction; it was also his 64th birthday that Saturday, and here he is taking the promoter's slice of the proceeds.

1993 inductee Marvin Hagler and 1990 inductee Joe Frazier wish three-division former champ Iran Barkley luck on joining them in the Hall someday. If a big smile was all it took to qualify, "The Blade" would be a shoo-in.



He's not quite as good-looking as the grand marshal of the 1999 Hall of Fame parade, Bo Derek, but "Grandpa" Al Lewis, of The Munsters *fame, still did a fine job leading the procession.*

NOSTALGIA CORNER

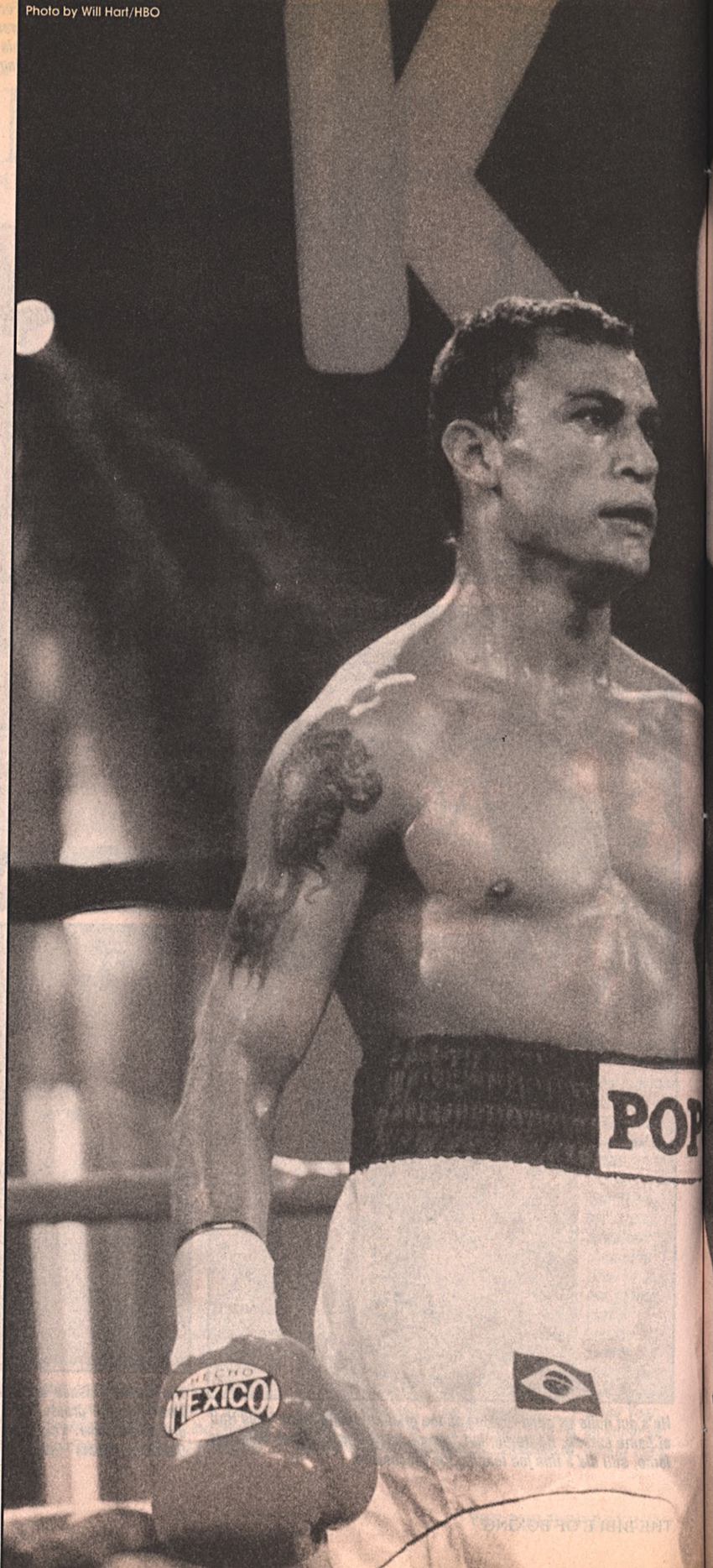
The Sweet Science became the Senior Science at induction weekend '92, when all-time greats Gene Fullmer and Carmen Basilio touched 'em up for old times' sake. You know, we'd take exhibitions like this over the Hector Camacho "fights" that have graced recent Hall of Fame weekends any day.

POPO POWER!

Brazilian Bomber Acelino Freitas Hits The U.S. With A Bang

By David Mayo

Photo by Will Hart/HBO



Brazilian flamethrower Freitas was a perfect fit for KO Nation, *as his exceptional knockout power allowed him to run his record to 26-0 (26) on the second broadcast of the new HBO series.*

Acelino Freitas can be the biggest name in town anytime he wants, but not yet anywhere he wants. In Brazil, where Freitas' claim to the spurious WBO super featherweight title made him the nation's most significant title claimant in a quarter-century, Freitas has seized the national fancy. But being big in Brazil means next to nothing in the United States, where virtually all fighters must eventually come if they want to maximize their earning potential. In this country, Freitas was just a faint buzz, a knockout artist fans had heard about, but never seen.

Brazilian sports fans are the zaniest and most devoted in the world, and they can't seem to get enough of their 130-pound hero. Newspapers, magazines, television, all have embraced Freitas. When Freitas made his first title defense last year, in a Brazilian soccer stadium, he periodically would be rousted by a loud roar while he rested on a training table. No one in the camp quite understood why, until it was explained that 52,000 fans already were in their seats, and whenever the dressing room cameras panned onto Freitas, and the signal was sent to the stadium television, the crowd responded.

"I'm an idol in Brazil," Freitas said. "I'm in every television program, in advertisements, on billboards. It's amazing."

Brazilians know Freitas by his nickname, "Popo," a nonsensical word that dates back to his early childhood. It seems the 24-year-old Freitas was not weaned off mother's milk until age six. When he wanted a feeding, he asked for "popo," and the name stuck.

Brazilian fans offer a similarly satisfying basic sustenance. If Freitas simply wanted adulation, he could continue to fight at home, and the Brazilian fans would nurture him.

But everyone craves solid food eventually.

There's plenty for Freitas to chew on these days. He cracked the U.S. television market with his second-round blitz of Lemuel Nelson on June 10 on HBO's *KO Nation*, in the first boxing show at Detroit's venerable Fox Theatre. Across the street, at the same time, Mark McGwire and his St. Louis Cardinals were playing before a rare Detroit sellout baseball crowd, while Freitas-Nelson played to a sparse live gathering of a few hundred. Freitas can enjoy a similar idol worship to McGwire back home. But if he is to expand into a worldwide entity, he has to lure the American media, and an electrifying HBO debut served notice that he is positioned to make a powerpunching impact on one of boxing's most talent-rich weight divisions.

The 130-pounders present an undefeated WBC champion (Floyd Mayweather), an undefeated WBA champion (Joel Casamayor), an undefeated IBF champion (Diego Corrales), and Freitas, who boasts a perfect 26-0 (26) record. Only one other weight division, the nondescript super middleweights, has undefeated title claimants from all four of those bodies.

Unlike any other division, all four of the 130-pound belt-holders were honors graduates of the same amateur era, all turning pro within 15 months of each other in 1995-'96. Casamayor was a 1992 Olympic gold medalist for Cuba, and would have been favored again in 1996 had he not defected. Mayweather went on to Olympic bronze in 1996, and was a teammate of Corrales on the U.S. team at the 1995 World Championships. Freitas was a Pan American Games bronze medalist with an 88-3 amateur record.

Corrales is 22, Mayweather 23, Freitas 24. Casamayor, who had his professional career delayed for obvious reasons and was last among the group to win his title, is 29.

"With Casamayor, with Acelino

Photo by Will Hart/HBO

Freitas unloads on helpless Lemuel Nelson en route to a second-round stoppage. Nelson, whose two previous losses had both come by decision, went down twice in the second round before referee Dale Grable waved the fight off with just one second remaining in the round.

great," Freitas said. "I just need to get fight after fight, and keep winning. I don't really look at those guys. I don't worry about those guys."

Tony Rivera, Freitas' Los Angeles-based assistant trainer, said only one unification opponent would bring immediate recognition. "If we beat Corrales or Casamayor, no one would think much about it anyway," Rivera said. "If you fight Mayweather and beat him, that would be different."

Ah, yes. Mayweather still looms out there, even though he has fought only once since September 1999, and his boxing business dealings are in tatters. Floyd Mayweather Sr. was removed as his son's trainer in May, after months of acrimony, and later was evicted on 24 hours notice from a home his son owns in Las Vegas. Mayweather also remains at odds with his promoter, Bob Arum, and with HBO, who last year offered Mayweather a six-fight, $11.25-million extension, only to see him spurn it as a "slave contract." When it appeared Mayweather had softened, HBO retendered the offer in January, then with-

Freitas, with Mayweather, with Corrales, we're talking about some serious fights in a weight class where there are some real stars," said Art Pelullo, who co-promotes Freitas along with Frank Warren. "I think they can make each other stars, and make each other tremendous money, if they all agree to work together."

Unfortunately, there's no guarantee of that. Corrales voices a willingness to fight anyone promoter Bob Arum and manager Barrett Silver present him. But Freitas' handlers see Corrales as too low-profile to be an interesting draw. Mayweather said in May that he doesn't want to fight Corrales until at least 2001, for the same reason.

Casamayor hasn't had a chance to defend the WBA title yet, but the fact that he speaks only Spanish hinders him, just as Freitas is hindered by speaking only Portuguese. Casamayor is usually the last of the 130-pound title claimants mentioned, and although he now lives in Miami, he hasn't drawn a big U.S. following outside that city.

Freitas seems indifferent about his opposition, so don't expect him to push for a 130-pound unification, either.

"I don't need to fight all the best to be

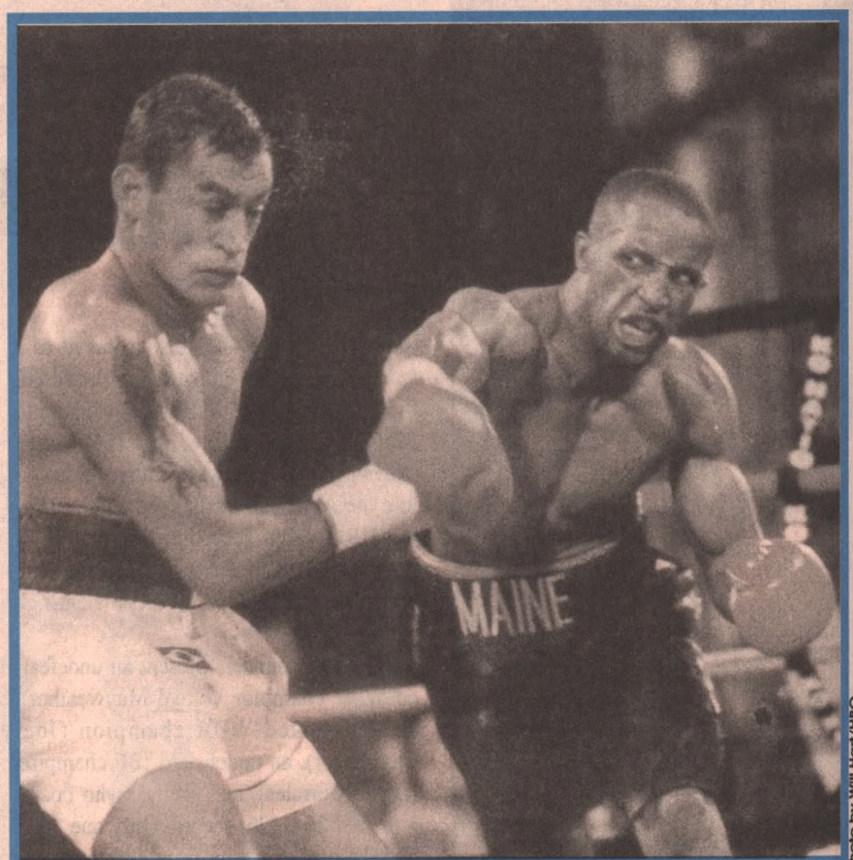


Photo by Will Hart/HBO

Though he's a magnificent offensive fighter, Freitas has shown some defensive shortcomings. He was tagged by several Nelson right hands, including one that dropped him for a short count in the first round.

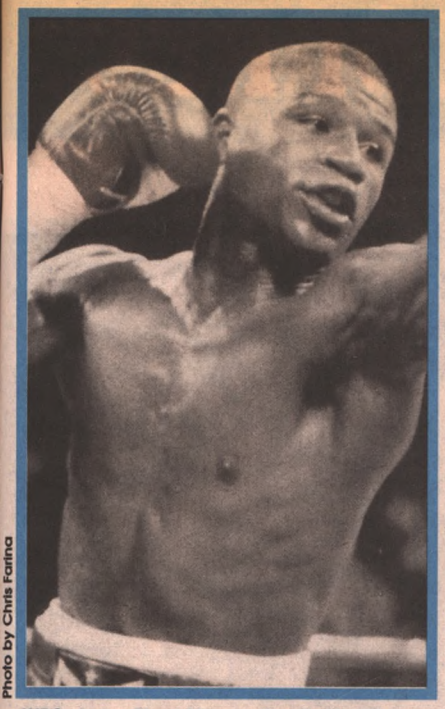
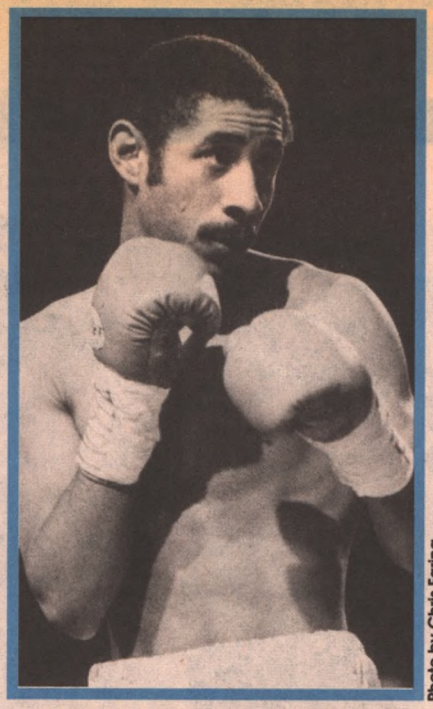


Photo by Chris Farina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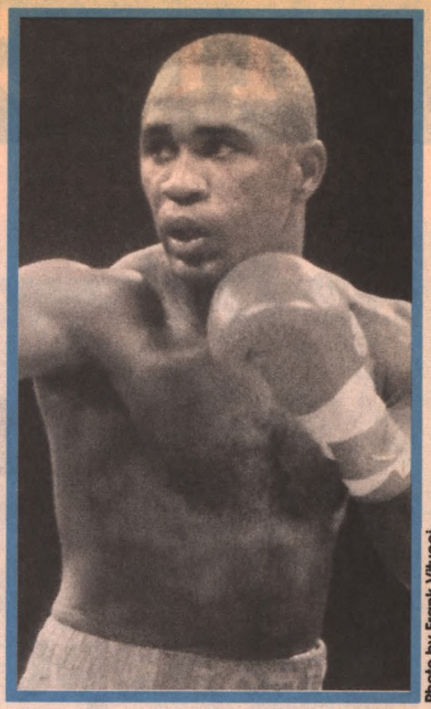


Photo by Frank Vilucci

WBC champ Floyd Mayweather (left), IBF kingpin Diego Corrales (center), and WBA titlist Joel Casamayor (right) are all, like Freitas, undefeated 130-pounders. HBO is hot to set up unification matches, but that hinges on Mayweather.

drew it again three months later after Mayweather continued to balk.

Mayweather has no future title defense scheduled, and none under negotiation. He declined HBO's offer for an August *KO Nation* appearance that would have paid him $250,000. Under the contract he declined, Mayweather's next fight would have earned him $1.25-million.

Kery Davis, HBO Sports' vice president of programming, contends that the 130-pound class offers a variety of intriguing matchups, minus a big void from its absentee star.

"One reason we put that offer on the table to Mayweather in the first place is because of the quality of fights we're able to make in that division," Davis said. "You unify the title, then you take the winner up to 135, against Stevie Johnston and Paul Spadafora.

"We've already had Diego Corrales on HBO. Acelino Freitas looks like a devastating puncher. Quite frankly, we're very interested in getting Casamayor into our mix, too. With those four, this could end up being one of the hottest divisions in the sport. However, Mayweather is a big missing piece right now. He's got to get his life in order—and his business situation. All of that is under his control. Everything that happens to Floyd Mayweather is under his control. He's not going any farther until he starts making some better decisions in his life."

HBO's interest in Freitas is telling, considering he doesn't speak English and is relatively unknown outside South America. Negotiations for an August appearance on ABC could further heighten Freitas' familiarity to the American audience. Asked how he can draw a big audience without speaking the language, Freitas balled up his right hand and thudded it into his left palm. It was much the same as the way in which he thudded Nelson in Detroit.

Nelson was the second Roy Jones-managed fighter to face one of the Big Four 130-pounders within three months, yet lasted one round less than Derrick "Smoke" Gainer did against Corrales. Nelson did manage one significant moment when he caught Freitas off-balance with a right hand and dropped the Brazilian in the first round. Freitas caught a similar first-round flash knockdown two fights earlier, against Barry Jones. But just as in that fight, when Freitas rallied to knock down Jones six times, he bounced back ferociously.

Despite Nelson's knockdown, only one judge gave him the first round, and that by a 10-9 margin. One scored it even at 10-10 and one scored 10-9 for Freitas.

Freitas told HBO that he hadn't watched tapes of Nelson, a declaration he later rescinded. "I saw on the tapes that he wasn't very good defensively," Freitas said. "So I tried to attack more and make a knockout. And that's what happened."

Nelson obliged Freitas with in-fighting, and paid for it when Freitas landed a right that had Nelson wobbled at the end of the first round. Late in the second round, Freitas landed a lead right hand that left Nelson woozy on the ropes. Four punches in succession all landed, and Nelson went down for the first time in his career.

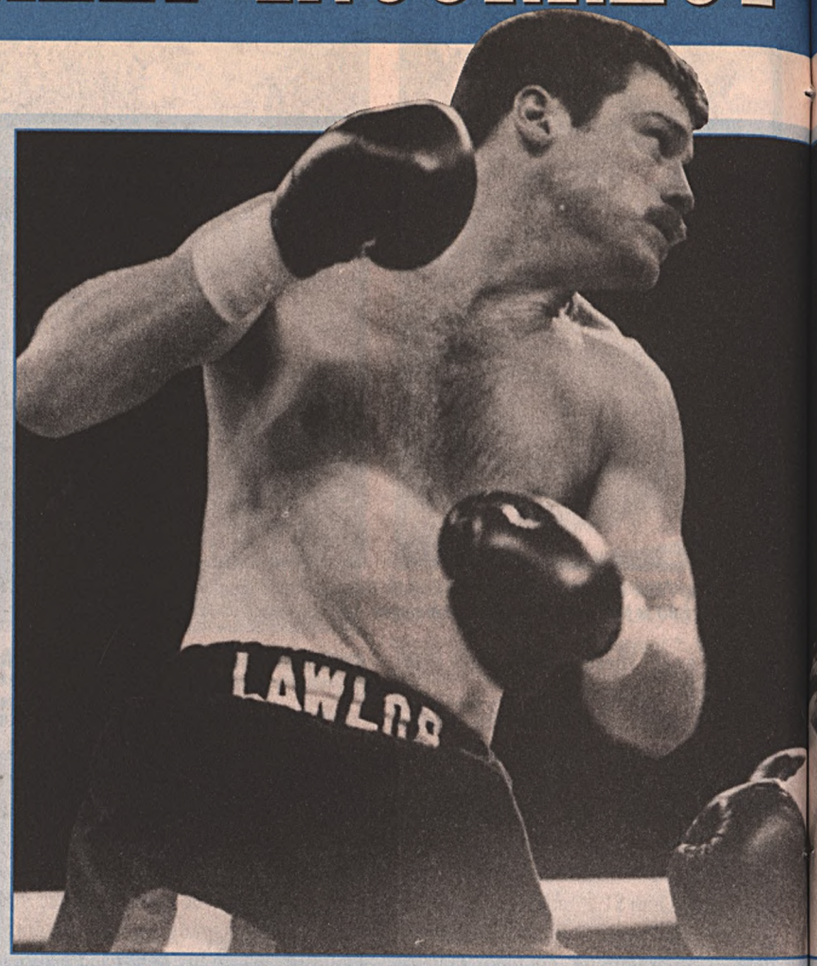
Nelson was up quickly, but only on instinct. Freitas threw 40 punches in the final 30 seconds of the fight, against minimal resistance, the last of them a right hand that sent Nelson crashing to the floor just as referee Dale Grable stepped in to call a halt at 2:59 of the second.

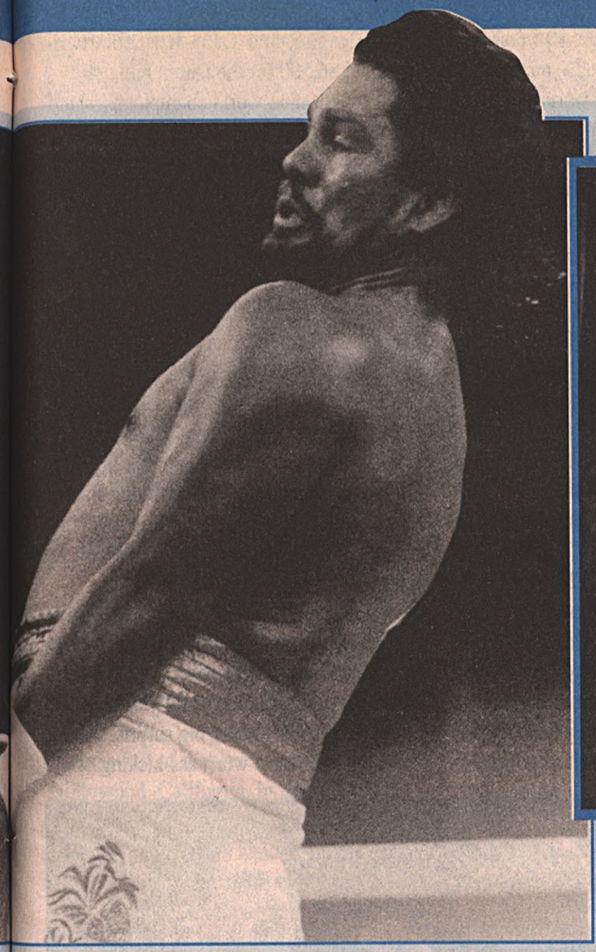
"He has great qualities," Luiz Doria, Freitas' trainer from Brazil, said of his young knockout artist. "He's strong, he's a great technician, very fast, and has a good jaw. As far as I'm concerned, he has all the qualities it takes to become a great champion."

He even has some pedigree. Freitas' father and uncle were amateur boxers. Three of Freitas' four brothers also boxed, and his brother Luiz, the Brazilian featherweight champion, just faced Marco

(Continued on page 62)

He Did Everything Wrong And Kept Coming Back For More





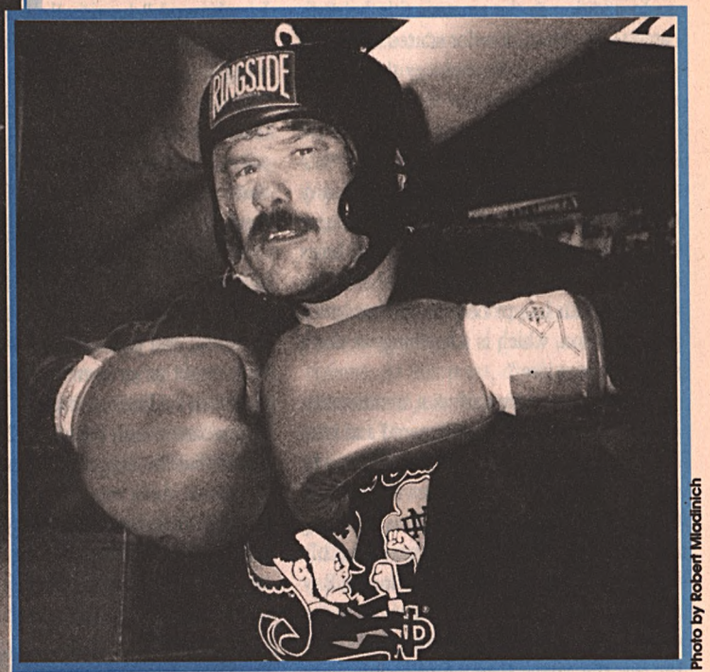


Photo by Robert Mladinich

Then and now: Lawlor's greatest boxing moment came in 1991 when he stopped Roberto Duran in Las Vegas (left). The 36-year-old Lawlor (above) is still fighting and recently fought a rematch with the Panamanian legend, dropping a 12-round decision.

By Robert Mladinich

If nothing else, one-time super middleweight contender "Irish" Pat Lawlor is a realist. Even though he had beaten the legendary Roberto Duran by sixth-round TKO in March 1991, he knew that nobody was giving him much of a chance to repeat that feat in their June 16 rematch in Panama City.

"I realize that I am going to be fighting Jesus in heaven on Christmas with the three wise men as the judges and Moses as the referee, but I still have enough left to beat Duran," said Lawlor about two weeks before the bout, as he sparred with two young amateur prospects named Pepe Terreros and Roman Maldonado in a tiny ring in a makeshift gym in the garage of Maldonado's Cordova Street home. "But I beat him once and I fully expect to beat him the second time around. All I have to do is just keep moving to my right and I'll be fine. The sad thing is, even if I do beat him, people are just going to say I beat an old man. What worries me more than losing is just getting out of the country intact if I beat him. I definitely want to be on the first plane out."

Lawlor was 15-1 (4) when they met the first time around on the undercard of Mike Tyson-Razor Ruddock I, and was coming off a 10-round decision victory over Wilfred Benitez. Not only was Lawlor 36 years old for the rematch, he had lost nine of his last 13 fights. It was obvious that Duran, who was fighting on his 49th birthday before a frenzied hometown crowd in the city where he was born, raised, and will forever be revered, was not looking for much of a challenge from the light-hitting but slick-boxing native of the Sunset District in San Francisco, California. A representative from the *Guinness Book Of World Records* was even going to be on hand because Duran, who turned pro at age 15 in 1967, would be just the second fighter ever to compete in five separate decades.

A lumbering Duran, who had entered the packed Nueva Panama Gymnasium on a teetering crane, managed to win a unanimous 12-round decision over Lawlor, but it was sadly apparent to all but the aging warhorse that he was decades removed from his prime. Unable to find his range, slow and old, Duran continually bulled Lawlor into the ropes and tried to land barrages of sloppy hooks and uppercuts before tiring and clinching. Although the packed house roared with approval every time Duran feinted, it was obvious that the four-time world champion and veteran of 120 fights was an old man grotesquely masquerading as a young one.

"Duran may not be what he used to be, but in my opinion he was the greatest all-around fighter that ever lived," said Lawlor. "He went from lightweight to super middleweight and fought the best fighters in the world. I still get scared when I see tapes of him beating Ken Buchanan and Iran Barkley. Muhummad Ali may have been the greatest boxer and the greatest human being, but Duran was the greatest pure fighter ever. Boy, was he a mean son of a bitch."

After the Duran fight, Lawlor stayed in Panama for two weeks. The reason: Not only did he fall in love with an employee of the hotel in which he stayed, he married her prior to his departure at a local courthouse.

"It was love at first sight," said Lawlor of his new bride Yazmin, the mother of two children, Antonio, eight, and Michael, three. "I got to Panama on Sunday, met her on Monday, fell in love immediately, as did she, and fought on Friday. After that, I just couldn't bring myself to leave. She speaks Spanish; I speak English, but we get along great."

Not only did Lawlor fall in love with Yazmin, he fell in love with the Panamanian people and their culture, which he calls "the most beautiful in the world." By all accounts the local citizenry also fell in love with him.

"I went to school to pick up the kids and I was absolutely mauled and mobbed," he said. "I've always been popular in San Francisco, but not even a tenth of how popular I was down there."

At this point, Lawlor, 22-11 (7), is unclear about what comes next in his career, but is happy over the fact that he did what he set out to do upon turning pro in 1987 at the age of 23—make a mark on the boxing world. Not only did he beat two faded legends, he garnered himself a place in the *Guinness Book Of World Records*. Little does it matter that it will be denoted by an asterisk.

Even while growing up as a wild, disenfranchised youngster, Lawlor, an 11th-grade dropout, never doubted that he was bound for bigger things. Although his early years were spent as a two-bit pocketbook thief and incessant street brawler, he was blessed with an prodigious intelligence that belied his years. He also became an accomplished guitarist, and even did some studio work with such high-octane rock bands as Santana and Journey. About the only thing that rivaled his intelligence was his intensity. Whatever he chose to do, legal or illegal, he did with gusto. He did not even begin fighting as an amateur until the age of 19, and that was only to pay testament to a friend who died in a motorcycle crash. But he was a fast learner

and saw boxing as the quickest means to an end that was available to a dead end kid like himself.

"I had time on my hands, so I said I would win a Golden Gloves title and dedicate it to my friend," said Lawlor. "Suddenly I became 'Irish' Pat Lawlor, and things just started to take off from there."

In addition to the amateur title he dedicated to his friend, Lawlor started an annual golf tournament in his memory that continues to this day.

"We like to think of it as the Woodstock of competitive golf," he explained. "We hold it every January, on the Sunday between the football playoffs and the Super Bowl, and it consists of nine grueling holes of mud, sweat, and tears, followed by a huge barbecue with lots of beer. It has become a great tradition, which is something we don't see much anymore."

Lawlor views himself as a traditionalist in the most noble sense of the word and is an outspoken critic of all that he perceives to be wrong with the world, whether it is viewed from inside the ropes or out. He is so strong in his beliefs that he even parlayed his immense popularity as a boxer in the Bay Area into an ill-fated run for mayor in the early-'90s. Lawlor, who was regularly selling out the city's Civic Auditorium with over 8,000 fans, became a walking, talking sound-bite machine with his off-the-cuff comments on everything from boxing to gay rights.

In a city that has long been known as more of a liberal bastion than even New York, Lawlor ran on an ultra-right, anti-gay ticket that promised to restore San Francisco to its blue-collar, working man roots. Even though his campaign lacked any real substance, he had received an inordinate amount of press coverage as a lovable, innocuous, Jesse Ventura-like rogue who was not afraid to tell it like it is. A welcome addition to the race, he was viewed as a longshoreman's version of New York's resident black rabble rouser, Al Sharpton. His campaign slogan: "If you're mad as hell and want to holler, put in your vote for Irish Pat Lawlor."

San Francisco is a city that embraces individualism and flakiness with equal aplomb, and Lawlor was initially treated with kid gloves by a friendly press corps. But, he insists, that all changed when he beat Duran. Lawlor thinks the press believed he might really start feeling like a winner and they'd better clip his wings before they started flapping too freely and he began building momentum.

"There must have been 40 messages from political magazines, newspapers, and television shows on my answering machine when I came home from the Duran fight [in Las Vegas]," he recalled with a hearty laugh. "I was a right-wing person in a left-wing town, but had always been treated fairly by the press. Suddenly, they turned on me like a pack of wolves. It got to the point that I don't even read the paper or watch the news anymore. I'm a totally media-free person now."

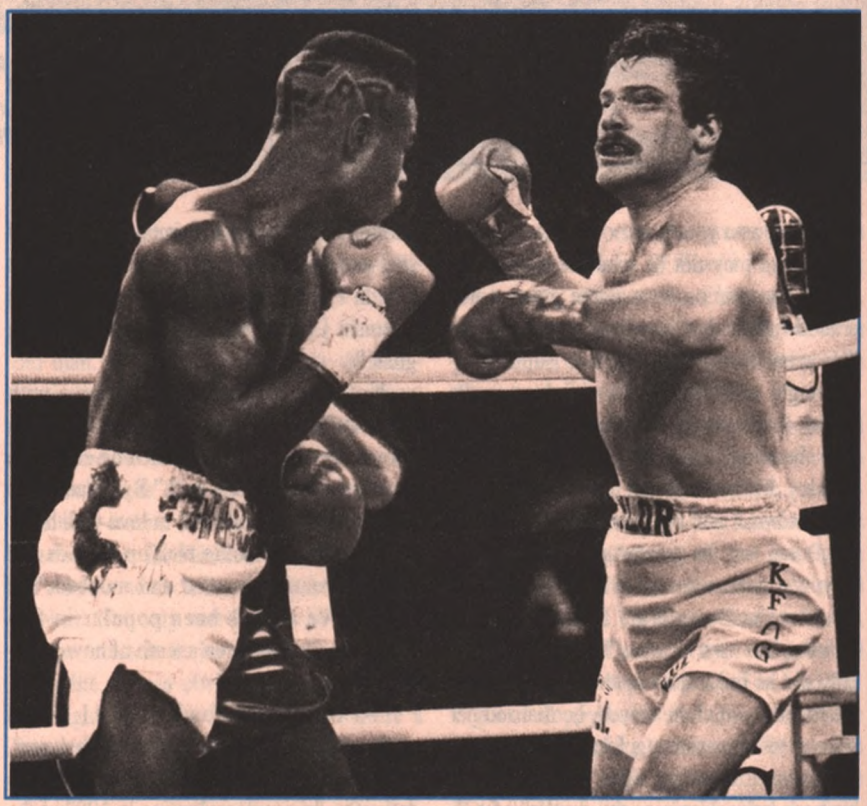
While Lawlor, who dropped out of the race shortly afterward, got a first-hand lesson in the capricious relationship between the press and political candidates, he was soon to get an even more painful lesson in the harsh realities of boxing. He had been paid a career-high purse of $25,000 to beat Duran, but the bigger paydays never came. He scored three more victories by the end of 1991, then was stopped by John David Jackson in June '92. Not long afterward, he would free-fall into journeyman status, often taking tough fights on short notice for even shorter money. Among the championship caliber fighters and top contenders he faced over the last decade were Terry Norris, Rene Arredondo, Hector Camacho, Joe Calzaghe, and Dana Rosenblatt. He was paid $6,500 for the Duran rematch.

"I fought nine world champions [including some fighters who held titles not recognized as world titles by THE RING] and held my own against all of them, at least for a while," he said. "Some of these guys were real bad-asses, and I was going to war with them."

Rosenblatt, whom he fought in Connecticut in February '96, is still the only fighter to put him down for the count. "After the first round, I went back to my corner and said, 'He can't hit for s___,'" recalled Lawlor. "In the next round, he hits me in the temple, and the next thing I see is referee Steve Smoger standing over me saying, 'Six, Pat, Seven, Pat, are you all right, Pat?'"

A few weeks before Christmas '92, he battled Norris in Las Vegas. Even though Norris had been terrorizing the junior middleweight division, Lawlor fully expected to beat him, but was in for a big surprise.

"He gave me the worst ass-kicking of my



The year after he beat Duran, Lawlor suffered the worst beating of his career when WBC super welterweight champion Terry Norris knocked him out in the third round. Since then, Lawlor has been pretty much relegated to the small club circuit.

Photo by Robert Mladinich

Lawlor, who teaches white collar boxing, poses with client Gregory Hart Pinchbeck III following a workout this past June. The colorful Lawlor is also a licensed massage therapist.

career," said Lawlor with his trademark self-deprecating humor.

The first Duran fight notwithstanding, his biggest win was against Arredondo, a former WBC 140-pound champion, before a house full of diehard Mexican loyalists in Hollywood, California, in May '94. After a hard-fought battle, Lawlor was as amazed as anyone to have his hand raised in victory.

"I beat him up, but I was beat to s___ myself," recalled Lawlor. "Every inch of my body was black and blue. What a fight! I would have liked to be in the audience for that one."

Lawlor's often unrestrained diatribes on any number of social or sporting issues have both attracted and repelled an equal amount of people. And Lawlor's venom is not reserved for San Francisco's left-wing press. Another object of his ire is the late Don Stuart, who took over the fabled but now defunct Newman's Gym in the city's Tenderloin District after the death of proprietor Billy Newman.

"When he moved the location of the gym, there was not one boxer from there who competed in the Golden Gloves that year," railed Lawlor. "All he had as members was a bunch of lawyers and judges. Kids couldn't afford the dues to join. He had showers there for businessmen only. Imagine that: segregation in a boxing gym. That gym had so much history. Guys like Muhammad Ali, Joe Frazier, Jerry Quarry, George Foreman, Emile Griffith, and Gerry Cooney worked out there for years and battled through the cigar smoke. That was a real gym, which was just destroyed by 'progress.'"

Not surprisingly, Lawlor is no big fan of women's boxing either.

"I think it's shameful that Christy Martin and all the daughters of these former champions are making all this money because they got [breasts] and [female genitalia] when thousands of Mexicans are going to sweaty gyms day in and day out and can't even make pocket money or enough to put a few scraps on the table for their family."

Lawlor is the first to admit that he has blown plenty of chances during the whirlwind career that has taken him to four continents, and he is also quick to take full responsibility for all of his transgressions. By acknowledging his own shortcomings, he feels he has the right to point out the faults of others.

"I happen to like Mike Tyson very much," he said, "but I get a little annoyed when I hear him complain about how Don King robbed him. Doesn't he realize that maybe the 18 Mercedes or the white tigers he bought as house pets or the lawsuits he had to pay off had something to do with it?"

While Lawlor has relatively little to show for his career in the way of material possessions, he is still blessed with a fistful of pride and an indomitable spirit. He currently makes his living as a $22-an-hour Teamster, staging products at conventions and shows. He also teaches white collar boxing and is a licensed massage therapist. He doesn't get to see his beloved five- year-old daughter, Sarah Nicole, nearly as much as he would like, but enjoys a solid relationship with her. He drives a battered 1989 Mercury Tracer, which he estimates is the 50th car he has owned and will probably be the 40th he will have wrecked. A recent three-year hiatus from the ring was caused by injuries sustained in a car crash.

His first fight back was last December at the obscure Centennial Hall in Hayward, California. Nowhere to be found were the throngs of fans that used to pour into the Civic Auditorium during his heyday a mere decade ago. Lawlor suffered a concussion and was stopped in the fifth round by Errol Banner of Belize, whose record going in was 3-2-1 (1). In his next outing, at the same venue just a few weeks before the Duran fight, he stopped one Michael Lloyd in the third round, but needed to have his left eye stitched up. Still, Lawlor plans to fight on, convinced that if he can just put a few wins together anything can happen.

"Look, when I turned 30 I was leaking out of both ends," he said. "All I wanted was to be on a bar stool, loaded. A lot of things, good and bad, have happened since then. I have a good job, a good woman, some options. At this point, my biggest goal is to own a house, take care of my daughter properly, set her up for the future, and live happily ever after."

Lawlor would like nothing better than to purchase a neighborhood saloon in nearby Daly City called the Silver Moon. It sits like a pugilistic outpost in the working class town and is a shrine to Bay Area boxing for the last 75 years. Every inch of the interior walls are covered with yellowed clippings and faded posters chronicling the exploits of such local heroes as Pat Valentino, who fought Ezzard Charles in San Francisco in 1949. On the afternoon of THE RING's visit, there was a lone customer, an elderly man nursing a shot and a beer.

"This place could be so much more than it is," said Lawlor. "I would love to take it over. Every time I go to a restaurant, people ask me for my autograph, and my steak gets cold because I sign for every last one of them. This way I'd have a place for people to come, a place for neighborhood people to hang out at. I've had a very good life. Crazy but good. I've run for mayor, played guitar with legendary rock bands, and fought nine world champions, but all anybody ever asks me about is the first Duran fight. If I could get enough money together to buy this place, I could make a living, give people a comfortable place to hang out, and let them ask me about the Duran fights for years to come." ■

Robert Mladinich is a freelance writer based in New York City and a regular contributor to this magazine.

THE TROUBLED LIFE OF FRED NORWOOD

Will The WBA Feather Champ's Talents Go To Waste?

By Johnnie Whitehead

It's the same old story. The guy who really had a chance of making his mark and becoming the best in his division is sitting on the inside looking out. His view is obstructed by prison bars as he wonders about what could've been.

Sound familiar? It happened to Tony Ayala. It's happening to Ike Ibeabuchi. And if WBA featherweight champion Fred Norwood isn't careful, it could happen to him.

Norwood's fiercest competition in the featherweight ranks doesn't appear to come from anywhere other than within. At the moment, he's untouchable, but it's not because of his crafty ring skills or his 37-0-1 (21) record. It's because his promotional company has distanced itself. It's because television executives wince at the mere mention of his name. Norwood is not feared as much as he's resented these days, and he has managed to isolate himself by alienating so many people that he has been left to fend for himself.

In May he went to Argentina to defend the title against the previously unbeaten Julio Pablo Chacon. The American champion was impressive in winning a unanimous decision, but what should've been a pleasant occasion turned near riotous because throughout the fight Norwood was showboating and taunting his opponent. The scene turned ugly as the crowd took more shots at him than Chacon.

"They were throwing everything. Paper, rocks, bottles, you name it," said Norwood's trainer, Kenny Adams. "He beat the guy to death and he taunted him a lot."

Things got worse. Upon returning from his latest triumph—Norwood's eighth victory on foreign soil—the celebration was cut short. Norwood's bail bondsman had alerted U.S. Customs about a warrant stemming in Las Vegas. The fighter was picked up May 31 in Tarrant County, Texas, and then transported back to Nevada, where he sat in Clark County Detention Center until June 23. From there he had to post $150,000 bond to be transported to southern California to face a fugitive warrant for charges that involved "road rage," according to Marc Risman, one of Norwood's attorneys. In that incident, a motorist's jaw was broken during an altercation.

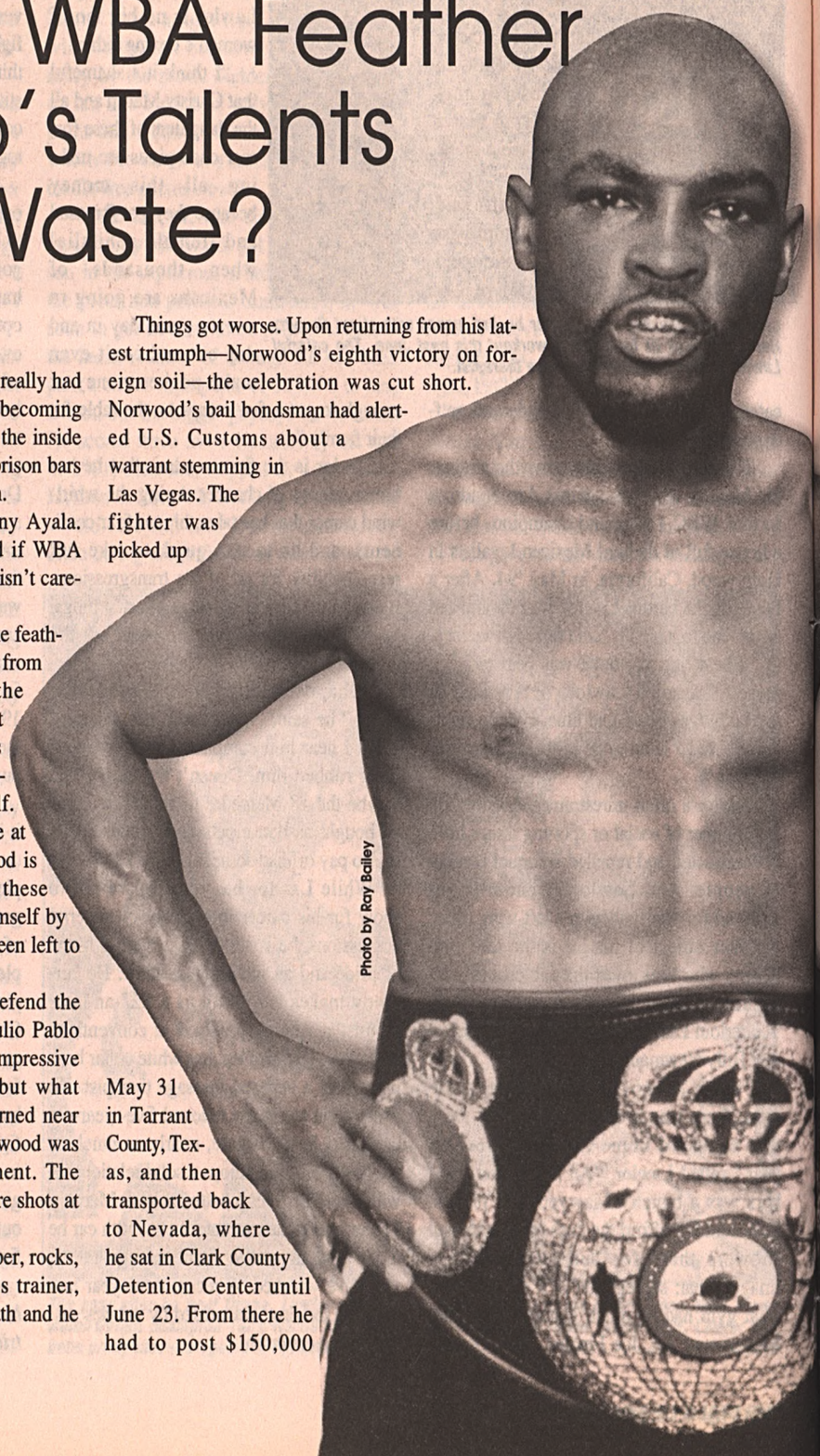


Photo by Ray Bailey

Then rumor had it that Norwood was being stripped of the title again (he was forced to relinquish the same belt in '98 for failing to make weight for a title bout) for flunking a drug test at the Chacon fight. When contacted by THE RING in mid-June, WBA legal counsel Jimmy Binns refuted that claim, saying that a hearing would be held before such a move would be made.

"They lied about the drug test," said Adams. "I've learned lessons from past dealings with Kennedy McKinney and Vince Phillips and other fighters I've had. I have my own test kit. Freddie was not using drugs."

Norwood is a tough street kid from St. Louis, Missouri, who calls himself "Li'l Hagler." Norwood resembles Marvelous Marvin in appearance, with a shaved head, goatee, and menacing stare. Both are southpaws, too. But that's where the similarities end.

Hagler was a no-nonsense, seek-and-destroy, crowd-pleasing warrior. He is forever linked with some of the most captivating brawls in the history of the sport. Norwood is a slickster who is of the pick-pocket variety, and his name is linked with some of the most painful exhibitions in recent memory. He's a cutie who can stink up a joint worse than Butterbean after too many helpings of Mexican cuisine. Norwood's controversial win over Juan Manuel Marquez last year, televised by HBO, was an intriguing bout on paper. But when it unfolded, Norwood retained his title in a bout that

Ref Stanley Christodoulou takes a close look as Norwood pounds Julio Pablo Chacon into the ropes en route to a 12-round decision in Argentina. Fans didn't take kindly to Norwood's arrogant attitude and threw debris into the ring.

Photo by Sumio Yamada

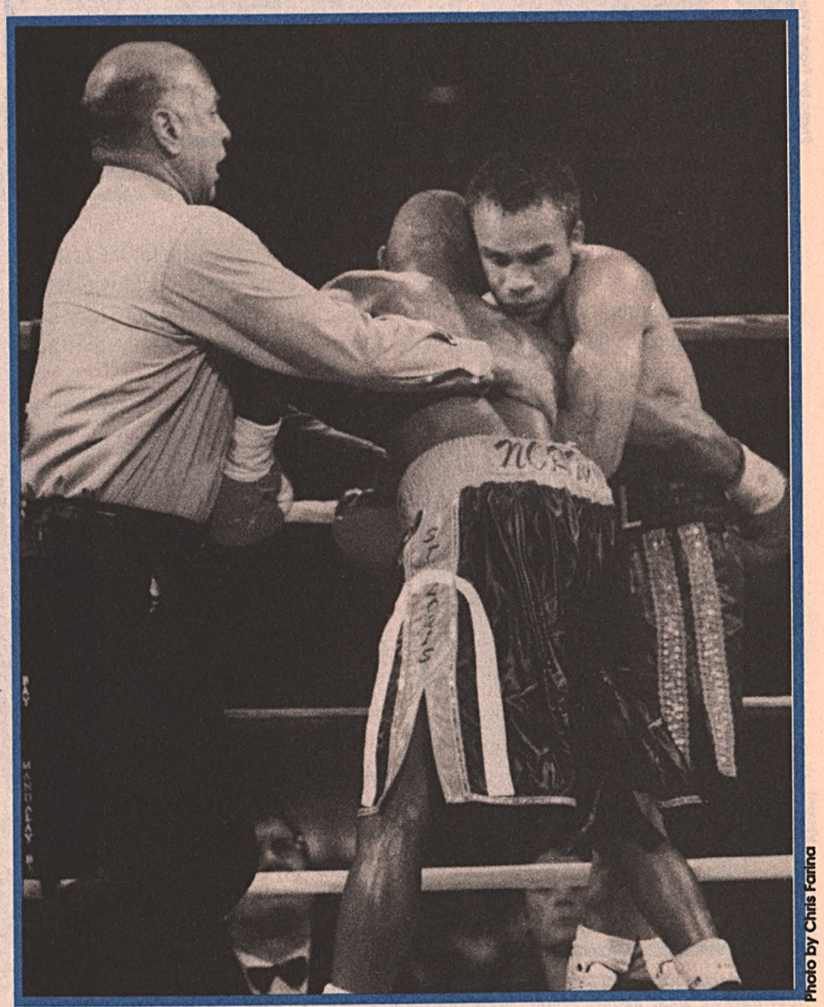

Although there were high hopes when they met in September 1999 on HBO, Norwood's bout with highly touted Juan Manuel Marquez turned out to be a dud, marred by multiple clinches and dirty tactics. Many felt that Norwood was lucky to get the decision.

Photo by Chris Farina

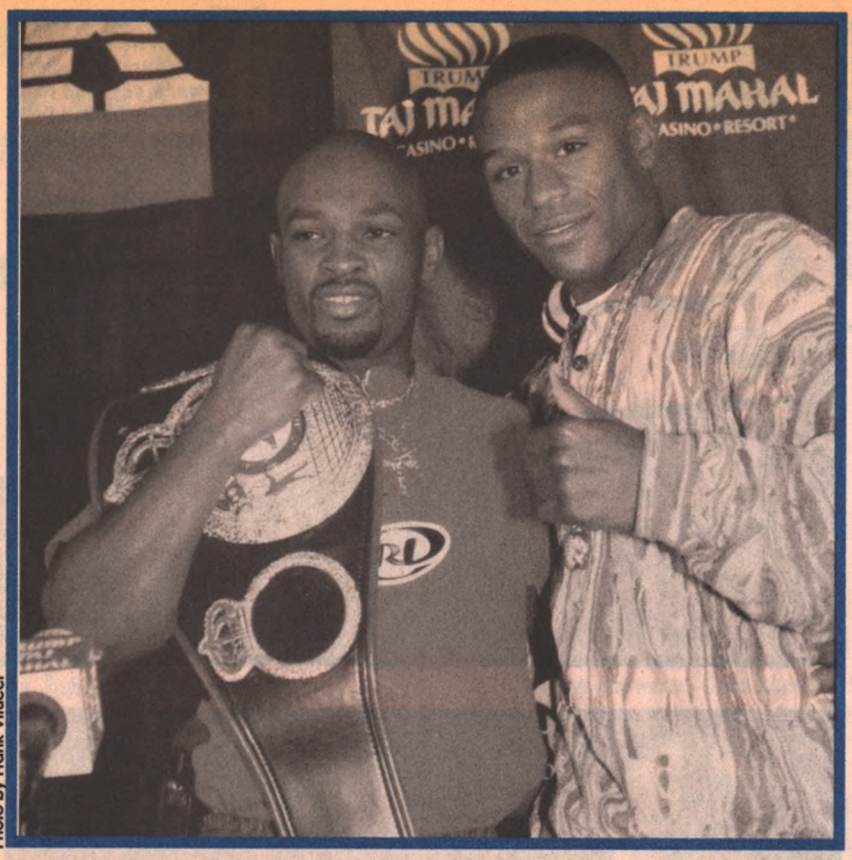


Photo by Frank Vitucci

Norwood poses with Top Rank stablemate Floyd Mayweather in 1998. Since then, both undefeated fighters have become alienated from Bob Arum's promotional company, albeit for different reasons.

was as entertaining to watch as a vasectomy.

To make matters worse, he had the nerve to celebrate in the waning seconds in a shameless display of arrogance. Anyone who saw him, especially for the first time, was sure to be turned off to witness him almost performing jumping jacks in the closing moments of a bout that many thought he had lost.

If you want to be a bad-ass, fine, just fight like one. But thanks to his lack of showmanship, no one is knocking down the door to put Norwood on the air anytime soon. Naseem Hamed had been struggling to find an opponent for an August 19 date on HBO. "The Prince" finally settled on Augie Sanchez after Johnny Tapia, Marco Antonio Barrera, and Erik Morales turned down career-high purse offers. Noticeably absent from the list of possibles was Norwood, even though a match with Naz would have been intriguing because a meeting between the two undefeated fighters would be a unification bout. But Norwood's unpredictability and his legal entanglements made him an unpopular choice.

When Hamed's camp failed to make a serious pitch for Norwood, HBO let out a sigh of relief. The last thing the cable network wants or Hamed needs after his exciting knockout of Vuyani Bungu is another stinkbomb like his wrestling match with Cesar Soto produced. That was one of the network's biggest fears.

"Although we have no specific interest in Freddie Norwood, we would have approved him as an opponent for Prince Naseem Hamed," said Kery Davis, HBO Sports' vice president of programming. "But it's not the type of fight we're looking for."

It seems as if Top Rank isn't interested in its own fighter, either, and that Norwood has worn out his welcome with the Las Vegas-based promotional company as well. It even won't go to purse bids to keep others from staging Norwood's title fights abroad, signaling that the company has done a 180-degree turn since a few years ago when Norwood was getting a big push. Before Norwood knocked out Genaro Rios in his first defense of the title on ABC, Bob Arum took out an ad in a London newspaper in hopes of luring Hamed into the ring. Why? Because Norwood was hot, and against Rios, he managed to wipe the floor with a guy who gave fits to veteran champion Wilfredo Vazquez in a disputed loss. Those were the good ol' days.

It's a surprise Norwood's mug hasn't ended up on a milk carton. He's now unwanted and traveling the globe, and only a few people care what happens to him.

(Continued on page 62)

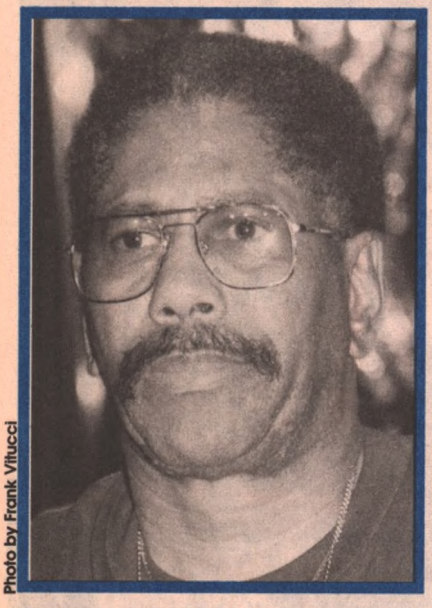


Photo by Frank Vitucci

Trainer Kenny Adams defends Norwood, saying that despite what people claim, the fighter works hard in the gym and is always in condition. Adams also asserted that Norwood wasn't using drugs when he beat Chacon.

Photo courtesy of HBO

HBO approved Norwood as an opponent for Naseem Hamed, but despite the WBA champ's credentials, executives at the network breathed a sigh of relief when "The Prince" selected another opponent for his August 19 date.

Mosley Defeats De La Hoya And ...

SUDDENLY, THE WORLD HAS A SUGAR CRAVING!

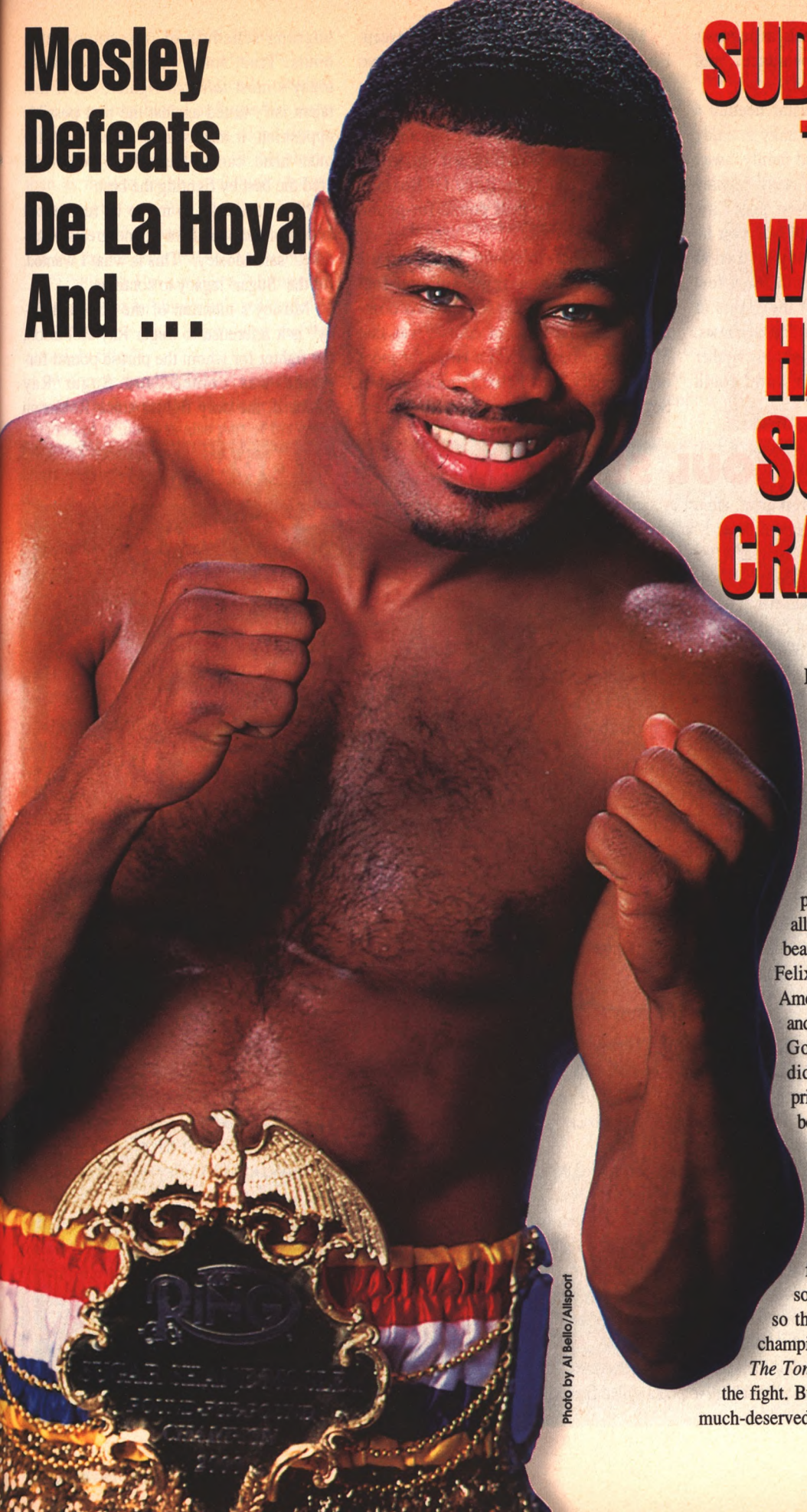


Photo by Al Bello/Allsport

By Nigel Collins

As you might expect, things have not been the same for Sugar Shane Mosley since he beat Oscar De La Hoya. The buzz of celebrity surrounding him reached unprecedented proportions literally overnight. Not only had he beaten De La Hoya, but unlike Felix Trinidad, Mosley was an American, could speak English, and was almost as cute as "The Golden Boy." People who didn't know Mosley existed prior to June 17 suddenly clambered for his attention by the hundreds.

It all got to be a bit much, especially after the training and publicity grind that preceded the fight. There are, of course, some things you can't refuse, so the new WBC welterweight champion was Jay Leno's guest on *The Tonight Show* a few days after the fight. But following that, he took a much-deserved vacation, leaving most of

the media spinning its wheels as requests for interviews, public appearances, and photographs were put on hold.

Boxing's newest superstar needed a chance to unwind, an opportunity to enjoy his triumph with friends and family, away from the prying eye of the press. Mosley hung out in Las Vegas and New York City, the toast of the boxing world wherever he went out in public. But mostly he tried to relax away from the hoopla for a few weeks, so he checked out the sights at Niagara Falls with his son and nephews, played some hoops, and bought his mother a new car. The rest of the world could wait; this was his time.

Mosley did, however, make one exception. In early-July, he met with THE RING at a Manhattan photography studio to pose for the photograph that appears on the cover of this issue. Even a luminary of Sugar Shane's standing will make an exception when "The Bible Of Boxing" names him as the best pound-for-pound fighter in the world.

The decision to elevate Mosley to the top spot in the magazine's pound-for-pound ratings was based on two compelling factors: First, of course, was that Mosley had beaten De La Hoya far more convincingly than Felix Trinidad had in September 1999; second was Roy Jones' ongoing schedule of non-competitive bouts. True, Jones might very well be today's most *talented* fighter, but if that talent isn't tested against the best possible opposition, it means little. Mosley, on the other hand, earned the right to be considered the best by fighting the best.

"It means a lot to me to be recognized as one of the pound-for-pound greats of all-time," said Mosley. "This is what I wanted, for the 'Sugar' legacy to continue."

Mosley's mention of the "Sugar legacy" is a reference to Sugar Ray Robinson, the fighter for whom the phrase pound-for-pound was coined, and Sugar Ray Leonard, the only fighter since Robinson

A SOUL SEARCHING VICTORY

The intensity level was so great, almost as soon as the Shane Mosley-Oscar De La Hoya fight began you knew that it was not going to be a bummer like last year's Felix Trinidad-De La Hoya letdown. From the start, it was a passionate struggle between two magnificently conditioned athletes at the peak of their powers. And if the result surprised a lot of people, it was only because they haven't been paying very close attention to the sweet stylings of boxing's latest Sugar until this, his first superfight.

Mosley, 147, Pomona, California, got his props right away, enjoying the sort of opening round that proved that he belonged in such celebrated company. The former IBF lightweight champion was not only quicker on his feet than De La Hoya, he was also quicker with his hands, which must have come as a shock to "The Golden Boy," who is accustomed to being faster than his opponents.

De La Hoya, 146½, East Los Angeles, California, peaked early, having his best rounds in the fifth and sixth, when he momentarily slowed Mosley with left hooks to the body during several intense exchanges. At that point, it looked like his strength might prevail, but Mosley, who had never been more than a punch or two behind, if that, was just getting started.

Most of the time Mosley, 28, was content to let De La Hoya, 27, come to him. His quickness and slick defense took the brunt out of his rival's attack and allowed him to counter with accuracy. He zapped De La Hoya with laser-like lefts and rights, darting in and out, shifting side to side, but never running. Even going backward, he frequently outpunched his famous cross-town rival.

When Mosley turned southpaw in the eighth and scored effectively, it momentarily confused De La Hoya, but trickery was the least of Oscar's woes. It was Mosley's right hand that put the biggest hurt on him, especially during the second half of the fight.

Officially, at least, Mosley needed to win the final three minutes to win the fight, and he was smart enough not to leave anything to chance. "I knew it was a good, close fight," said Sugar Shane. "I wanted to leave my mark in the 12th."

De La Hoya, 32-2 (26), felt the same way, and that meant we were in for a treat. Nothing was held back in punch-filled finale. De

Mosley's right hand was a major factor

La Hoya never stopped trying, never stopped letting his hands go. But Mosley, 35-0 (32), was too good for him and punctuated a career-defining performance by outlanding Oscar in the 12th by a staggering 45 to 18 margin (according to CompuBox).

"It was a great fight, a close fight," said the gracious winner. "We went soul-searching. We showed we were two warriors. We put on a spectacular fight."

While some observers had it closer than others, the 115-113 tally in De La Hoya's favor handed in by judge Marty Sammon seemed inexplicable. Thankfully, Lou Filippo and Pat Russell voted for Mosley, 116-112 and 115-113, respectively, awarding him the WBC welterweight title via 12-round split decision. All three judges are from California. THE RING had Mosley way out in front, 117-111.

The announced crowd of 20,744 set a new state gate record of more than $8-million. TVKO had approximately 700,000 pay-per-view buys for a gross revenue of around $37-million, making it the second-largest non-heavyweight PPV event in history.

The referee was California's Lou Moret.

Promoter: Top Rank

(6-17-00)

—NC

(prior to Mosley) deemed worthy of the exalted nickname. While Mosley's undefeated record and aesthetically pleasing style have long hinted at Sugar-like capabilities, beating De La Hoya added significant credibility to his claim. Mosley, a man as modest as he is talented, doesn't come right out and say that he's in Robinson and Leonard's league, but you can tell that he feels that he's getting there.

"I believe I'm up there," he replied when asked if he thinks he's reached their level. "All the great Sugars won the welterweight title."

When reminded that Robinson and Leonard also won the middleweight title, and asked if that was also part of his grand plan, all Mosley would say was, "It's possible." Still, even if he does eventually gain an additional 13 pounds and campaign as a middleweight, it won't be for some time to come. Let's not forget that as recently as April '99, Mosley was the IBF lightweight champion. Any move up to 160 pounds will be in the distant future, if at all, and besides, there's still plenty of business to take care of in the 147-pound ranks. In fact, the only good news for De La Hoya to come out of his loss to Mosley was that there's a clause in his contract that guarantees him a rematch. The bad news is that, according to Mosley, neither De La Hoya nor the paying public have seen the best of Sugar Shane yet.

"I don't think that I did all that I can do," said Mosley. "My back tightened up from all the bending at the waist I was doing, so I took a few rounds off. But I relaxed and it loosened up a bit. Overall, I'd say I was at around 85 percent. Next time, I'll be even better."

Could he have stopped De La Hoya if his back had cooperated?

"I think so," Mosley said, "especially if I had opened up earlier."

Mosley said all this without sounding like a braggart. He spoke softly in an assured manner and punctuated his remarks with a smile that seemed to spread from New York to Los Angeles. His quiet confidence is contagious, and after listening to him talk for a few minutes, you start to wonder how on earth the oddsmakers ever made him the underdog.

"It wasn't like, *Wow! I won!*," said Mosley. "In my heart I knew I could beat De La Hoya."

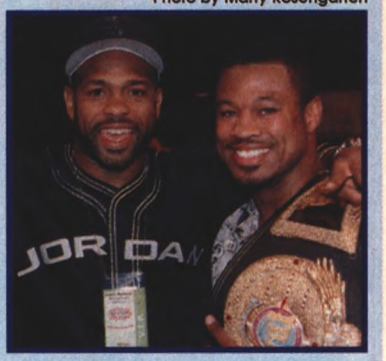
It's difficult, if not impossible, to know what's in De La Hoya's heart. Immediately after the fight, he sulked and insinuated that he may never fight again. But after a few days of licking his wounds, he said he wanted another crack at Mosley. Although a date for the rematch has yet to be decided, De La Hoya's promoter, Bob Arum, has already gone on record as saying that

(Continued on page 56)

THE RING'S MAGNIFICENT SEVEN

THE RING *published its first pound-for-pound ratings in the January 1990 issue. All told, six fighters have won the belt since then, and one of them, Roy Jones, has won it twice. The rankings were compiled approximately three months prior to the cover dates. The lineage is as follows:*

Photo by Marty Rosengarten



Jones and Mosley: Past and present pound-for-pound champs

1. MIKE TYSON (January '90 issue)
Forget pound-for-pound, Iron Mike was the undisputed King of Boxing when these rankings were compiled. But Buster Douglas was right around the corner.

2. JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ (June '90 issue)
When Tyson went down in Tokyo, Don King needed a new meal ticket, so he finally gave "J.C. Superstar" the attention he deserved.

3. PERNELL WHITAKER (January '94 issue)
The shafting the judges gave "Sweet Pea" in the Chavez fight was assuaged somewhat by his elevation to the top spot.

4. ROY JONES (August '96 issue)
When Whitaker struggled with Wilfredo Rivera, Jones' brilliance could no longer be denied.

5. OSCAR DE LA HOYA (August '97 issue)
Yes, it was close, but De La Hoya did beat Whitaker, whereas Jones was disqualified against Montell Griffin three weeks earlier.

6. ROY JONES (January '00 issue)
When "The Golden Boy" lost to "Tito" so inconclusively, Roy was still there, still teasing us with his brilliance.

7. SUGAR SHANE MOSLEY (November '00 issue)
Did anybody *really* think Oscar won?

Photo by Al Bello/Allsport

One lump or two? Perhaps the biggest surprise of the fight was that Sugar Shane was capable of outpunching De La Hoya when they stood their ground and traded toe-to-toe.

HALL OF FAMER JEFF CHANDLER

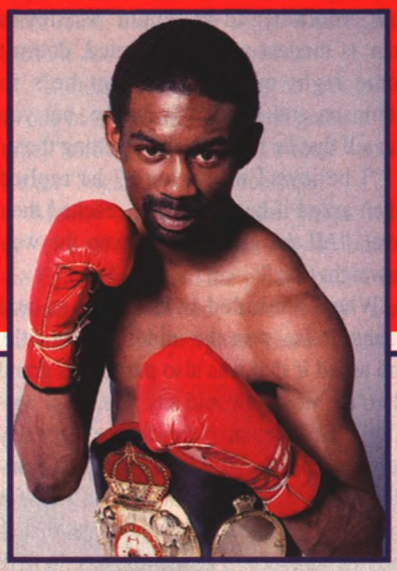


Photo by Tom Casino/DirecTV

"Joltin' Jeff" was accompanied to Canastota, New York, for the Hall of Fame weekend by his two sons, Jeff Jr. and Julius. Neither is old enough to have seen their father (inset, during his days as WBA bantamweight champion) fight live.

By Nigel Collins

When it came time to have his fist cast in plaster during the International Boxing Hall of Fame's induction weekend this June, former WBA bantamweight champion Jeff Chandler, who fought out of an orthodox stance, insisted they immortalize his left hand.

"It's gotta be the left," said Chandler as he prepared to plunge his balled-up hand into a bucket of goop that's used to make the impression that would later be filled with plaster. "I'm a Philadelphia fighter. Philly fighters are famous for the left hook, and I had a pretty good one."

The fans close enough to hear Chandler on that sunny afternoon in Canastota, New York, laughed, and a ripple of approval spread through the crowd. Some of the same folks who had cheered Chandler on to victory at the old Philadelphia Spectrum and at various Atlantic City casinos were there, and they hadn't forgotten the greatness that once made him the highest-paid bantamweight in history.

"You tell 'em, Jeff," yelled one guy in his 40s, wearing a faded "Joltin' Jeff Chandler" T-shirt that had to be at least 16 years old. "You knocked a lot of guys out with that hook."

Suddenly, after more than a decade-

He Received As Many Jolts As He Delivered

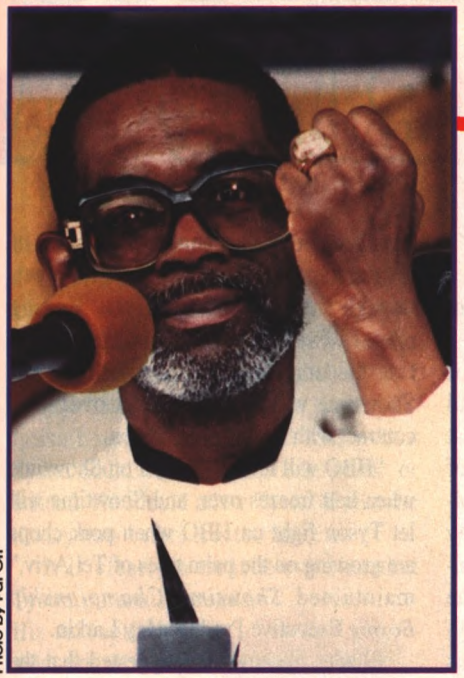


Photo by Pat Orr

Chandler shows off his Hall of Fame ring at the 2000 induction ceremony. He's also showing off the left hand that he insisted be cast in plaster.

Photo by Pat Orr

Still a fan favorite: Chandler greets one of his many admirers who lined up to congratulate him and get an autograph during Hall of Fame weekend.

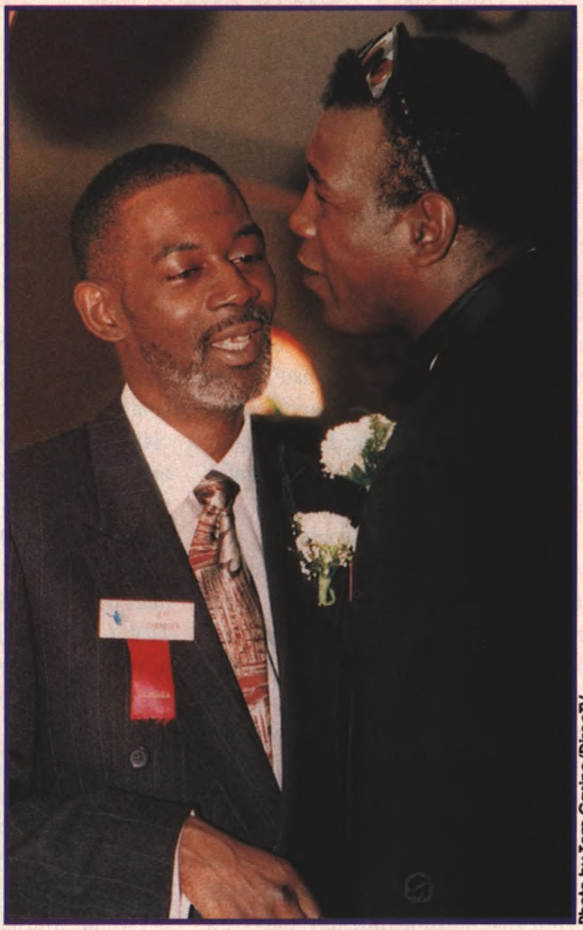


Photo by Tom Casino/DirecTV

Chandler shares a quiet moment with fellow Philadelphian Matthew Saad Muhammad, who was inducted into the IBHOF in 1998. Both former champions trained at the same gym for many years.

and-a-half of anonymity, Chandler was back in the spotlight, surrounded by well-wishers and a jostling sea of autograph hounds, being ushered from one event to the next by the IBHOF staff, a celebrity again—if only for this one magic weekend. His reappearance as a public figure was amplified by the fact that he had disappeared from view so abruptly after his last fight, April 7, 1984. Most fighters do a slow fade. Chandler went from world champion to virtually an invisible man in just a few months.

The bare facts are common knowledge: Chandler underwent cataract surgery shortly after losing the 118-pound title to Richie Sandoval, which required plastic lenses to be permanently installed in both eyes, and immediately announced his retirement. No hesitation. No rematch. No comeback. It was a shockingly swift end to a brilliant career that had seen the wiry, whippet-like Chandler turn pro after only two amateur bouts and win the WBA title in his 25th pro fight, knocking out Julian Solis on November 14, 1980. Twelve fights (nine of them successful title defenses) later, he was gone, a fantastic fighter who had, essentially, become a phantom overnight. Now, there he was again, rescued from obscurity by a call from the Hall, a call Chandler was never sure was coming until

(Continued on page 56)

MAKE THE LEWIS-TYSON FIGHT NOW!

Mad Mike Can "Blow" At Any Moment!

By Brian Doogan

Mike Tyson was never likely to be invited to a Buckingham Palace garden party to chat over tea with the Queen. But after his latest descent beyond depravity at Hampden Park in Scotland where he manhandled a referee to maintain a maniacal attack on Lou Savarese, a frightened foe he had already beaten, he was fortunate to avoid being thrown in the Tower, the London state prison that has admitted many high-profile inmates by royal decree.

Boxing, we can safely predict, will always provide safe haven for such a fiend. Cannibalism failed to result in his permanent exclusion from what we still believe we are entitled to refer to as a sport, so the effects of "adrenaline" in the heat of battle are unlikely to lead to his removal. Money is all-powerful, and Tyson is the most marketable psychotic on the planet. Even his worst excesses are tolerable if he can continue to attract the high-rollers to the big casinos and convert morbid fascination into pay-per-view sales. Politicians pontificate, women's groups express outrage, but boxing turns a blind eye to the blind fury of the Elephant Man of the fight game.

While the British Boxing Board of Control was considering the right and proper action to take following the latest demonstration by Tyson that he is out of control, the prisoner of an alarmingly volcanic nature, the wheels were already being set in motion for the kind of financial extravaganza that can obliterate the onset of moral indignation. World heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis and his promoter, Panos Eliades, announced their desire to have Tyson challenge for the titles he formerly held by March next year. That it would be the richest bout in boxing history is a cast-iron guarantee. The ritual slaying of a monster or the monster's return to wreak havoc throughout the world is a selling point that simply cannot fail. Hollywood and boxing have made the monster plot into an industry.

The battle between HBO, who have Lewis on an exclusive deal, and Showtime, to whom Tyson is obligated not least because of the company's payment of his outstanding taxes, is the sole threat, though this is not negligible. Having released Evander Holyfield twice to facilitate his unification bouts with Lewis, Showtime will stand steadfast over their contract with their star attraction.

"HBO will let Lewis fight on Showtime when hell freezes over, and Showtime will let Tyson fight on HBO when pork chops are growing on the palm trees of Tel Aviv," maintained *Showtime Championship Boxing* Executive Producer Jay Larkin.

Eliades, meanwhile, suggested that the power of the dollar will once again prove a magnetic force.

"There is no sense to what Larkin is saying. This fight is achievable, and he should acknowledge it," Eliades insisted, offering Tyson a purse of $25-million. "The amount of money involved is such that we should be able to do a deal with both companies, Showtime and HBO. Let's face it, Larkin needs to sell Tyson to the public as quickly as he can. He needs to maximize his return on Tyson before Tyson self-destructs. And he will self-destruct. After the way he behaved in Glasgow, the whole world can see that. Larkin should throw him in against Lennox rather than have him self-destruct for no return to the boxer or his backers. I believe Larkin is a clever man. He certainly isn't stupid. I think he'll realize that Tyson could end up dead or in prison or banned. He should allow Tyson to take the money now before it is too late."

It is clearly a treacherous line that Tyson currently treads. His susceptibility to wild, primitive urges is well-established. But since the infamous ear-biting encounter with Holyfield in June 1996, Tyson is just as volatile in the ring. A sinister air of menacing uncertainty prevails. Accepted boundaries mean nothing in his anarchic, sadistic mind.

"I'm a hateful person. I know I'm going to blow some day," Tyson declared in a recent interview. "When I fought Holyfield, I wanted to kill him. I wanted to hurt him. I never thought about what I was doing."

He was consumed by the same demons when he reached the outdoor ring on June 24 to face Savarese, who declared optimistically that "one man's crisis is another man's opportunity"—an allusion to the drama of the preceding week when Tyson allegedly assaulted promoter Frank Warren during a dispute over an unpaid $630,000 jewelry bill from his last visit to Britain in January, putting the fight and Tyson's unpredictable state of mind in doubt. A turnout of just 20,000, when twice that number had been anticipated, reflected the confusion and Tyson's dwindling appeal even among British fans, who had swarmed to him like he was the leader of a religious cult when he came to cut down Julius Francis. As compliant as Francis

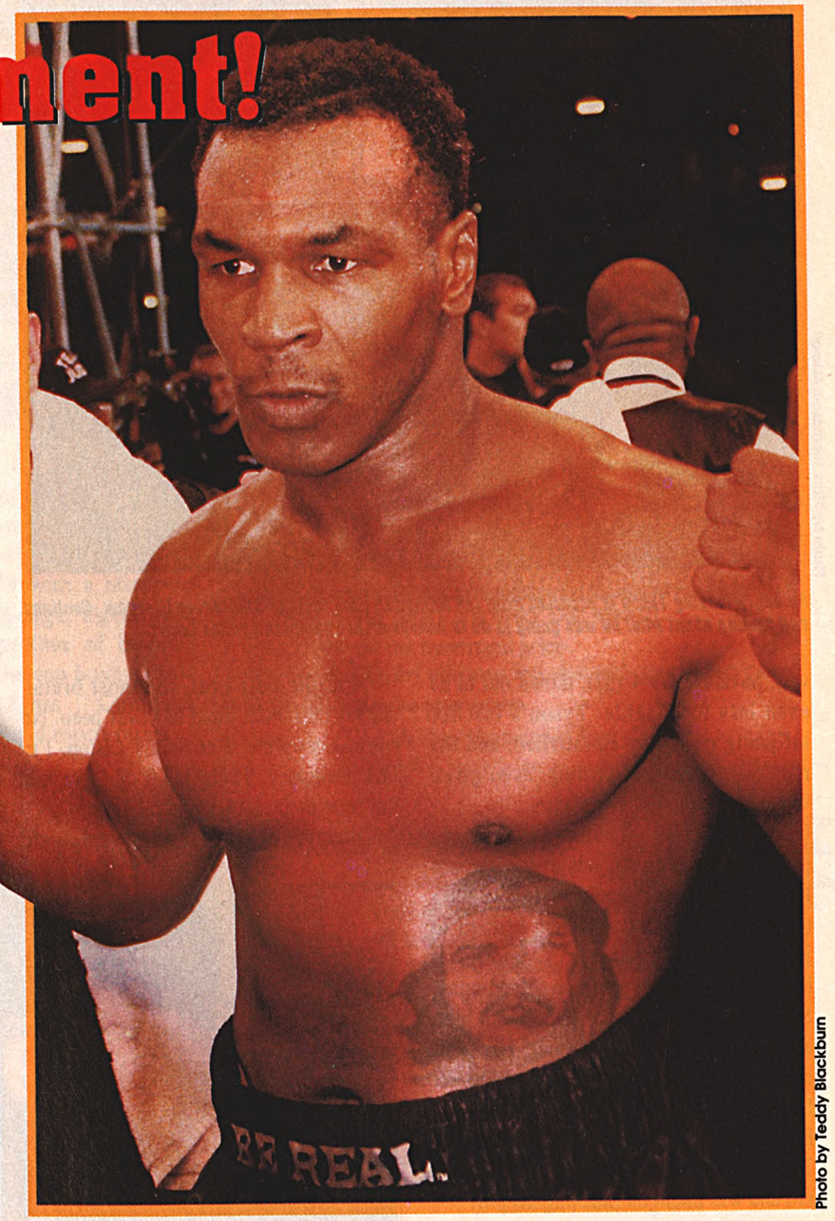


Photo by Teddy Blackburn

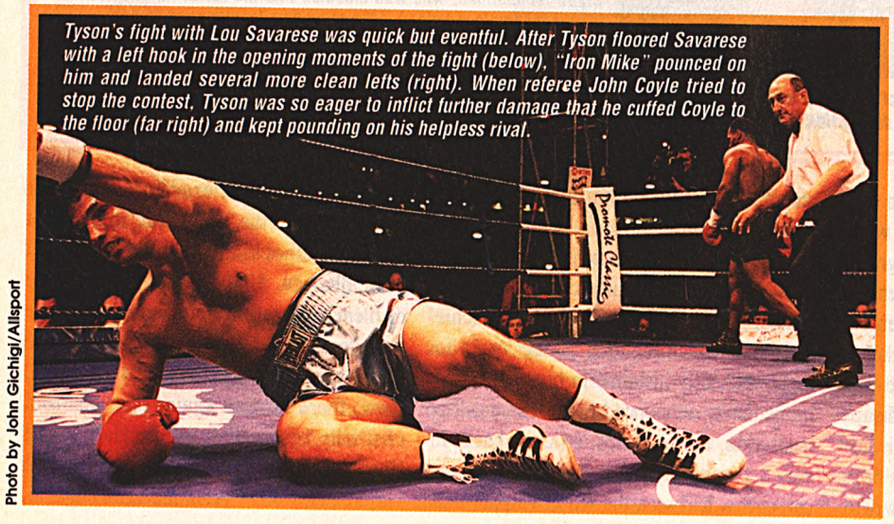


Photo by John Gichigi/Allsport

Tyson's fight with Lou Savarese was quick but eventful. After Tyson floored Savarese with a left hook in the opening moments of the fight (below), "Iron Mike" pounced on him and landed several more clean lefts (right). When referee John Coyle tried to stop the contest, Tyson was so eager to inflict further damage that he cuffed Coyle to the floor (far right) and kept pounding on his helpless rival.

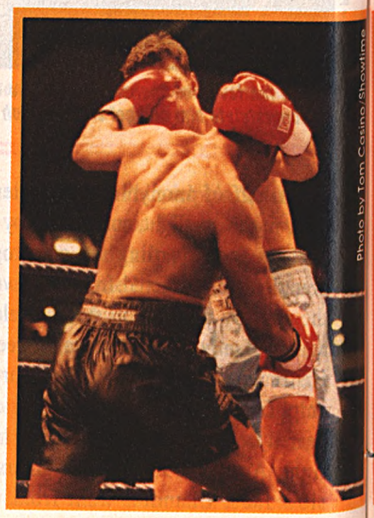


Photo by Tom Casino/Showtime

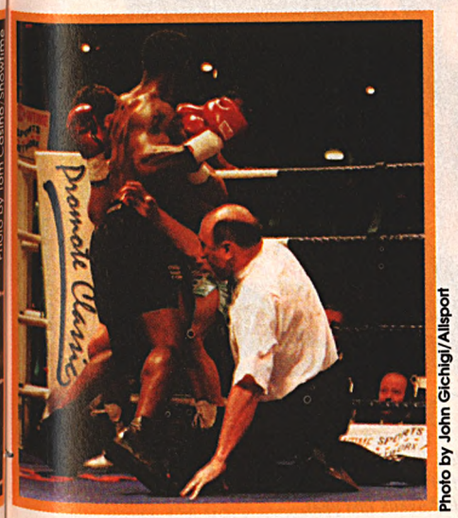


Photo by John Gichigi/Allsport

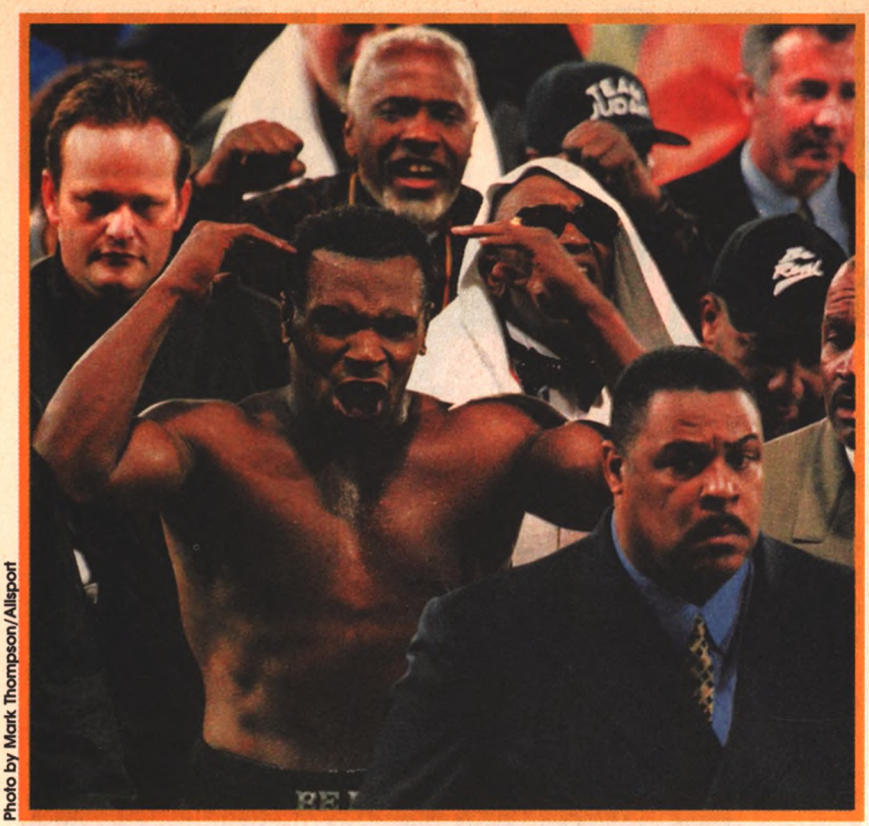


Photo by Mark Thompson/Allsport

An angry-looking Tyson is escorted from the Hampden Park football stadium in Glasgow, Scotland, still ranting about what he was going to do to heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis.

Photo by Mark Thompson/Allsport

Did he or didn't he? Promoter Frank Warren sports a very red right eyeball at the Tyson-Savarese fight, fueling speculation that he'd been attacked by Tyson earlier in the week.

was, Savarese, 39-4 (32), turned out to be even less formidable. Tyson's lust for inflicting pain went unsatisfied, and the repercussions were startling, even given Tyson's history of malevolence.

The depressing chain of events was precipitated within seconds of the opening bell by a wide left hook by Tyson, 48-3 (42) with 1 no-contest, which seemed to just glance off of Savarese's temple, but had the effect of stepping on a land mine. Savarese's legs collapsed underneath him, and he arose in a state of shock. His swift demise was inevitable. Several more hooks from the rampaging ex-champ prompted British referee John Coyle to intervene, but Tyson was having none of it. He sniffed a kill and was intent on finishing his prey.

Pushing the official to the floor with a wild swing, he continued his barbaric attack. Sport died at this stomach-churning point. Several blows later, and with both sets of cornermen in the ring, the referee finally ended the brutality by pulling Tyson off. Disqualification was prevented only because referee Coyle had already stopped the bout, officially after 38 seconds. Moments later we were subjected to the following sickening rant from Tyson:

"I'm the best ever, the most brutal, vicious champion there has ever been. No one can stop me. I'm Sonny Liston. I'm Jack Dempsey. There is no one like me. I'm from their cloth. I'm ferocious."

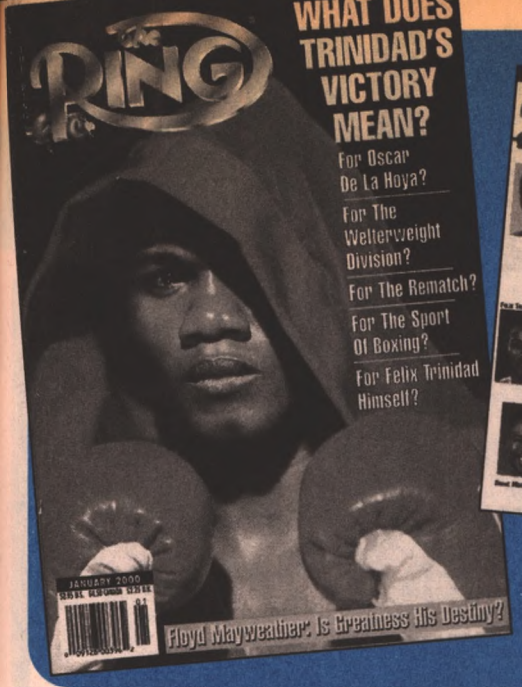
Directing his comments toward world heavyweight champion Lewis, Tyson went on: "I want your heart. I want to eat your children. Praise be to Allah.

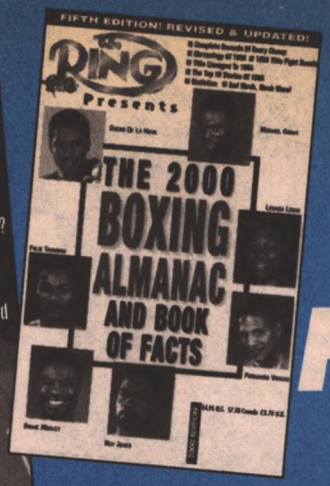
Later, Tyson backpedaled: "I am nothing. God was with me on this fight. I will be better next time. The fans know my pedigree. They know what I do. I am not ready for Lewis. Of course he wants me

(Continued on page 58)

Photo by John Gichigi/Allsport

We're not sure what message Tyson is sending in this press conference shot. Perhaps he's demonstrating how he's going to eat Lewis' children. Whatever the story, Tyson seems to have worn out his welcome in the U.K., just as he did in Nevada last year.





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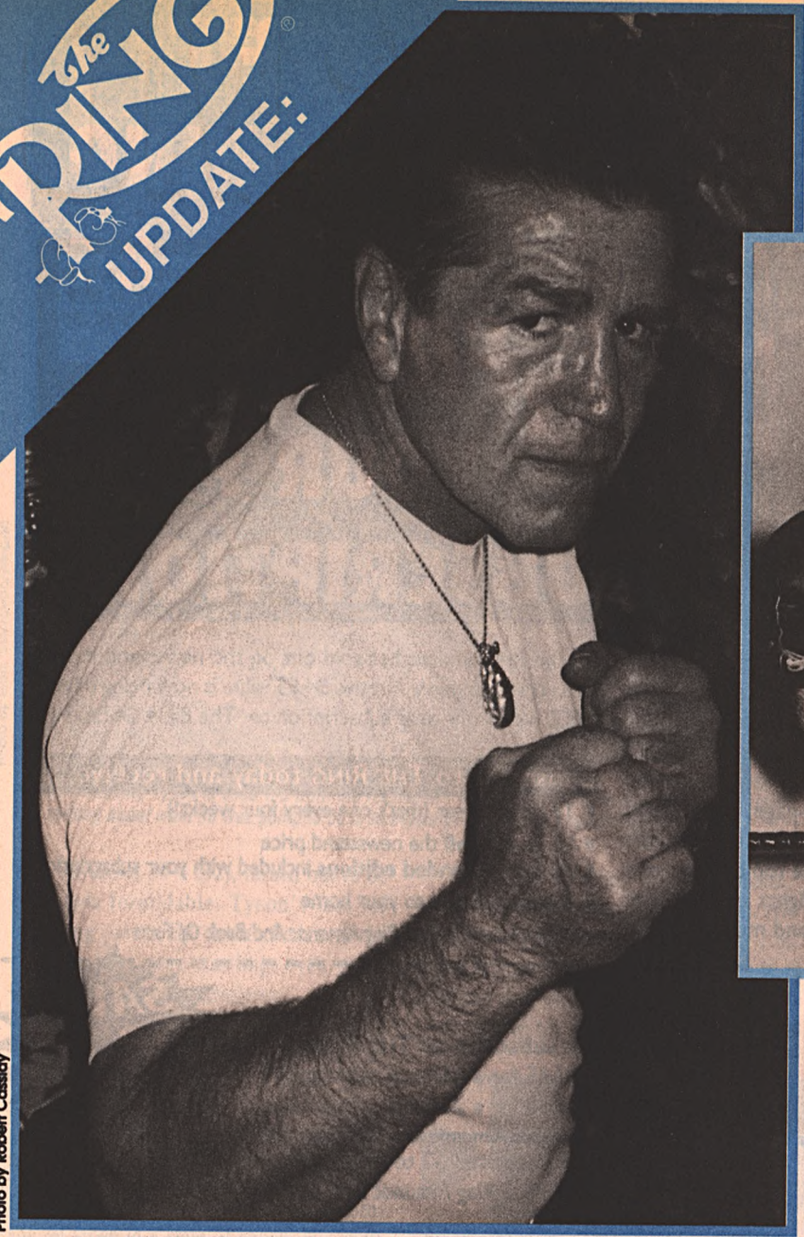
VITO ANTUOFERMO



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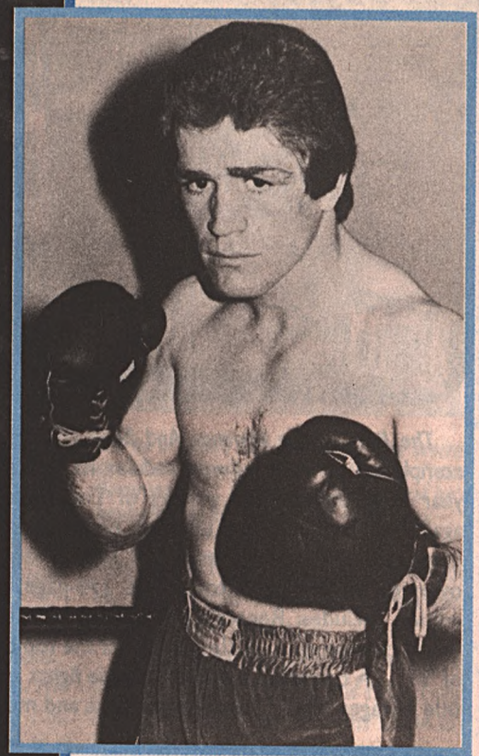


Antuofermo as he appears now (left) and in his prime as one of the world's best middleweights (above). The 47-year-old Antuofermo is still passionate about boxing, but his number-one interest these days is his budding acting career.

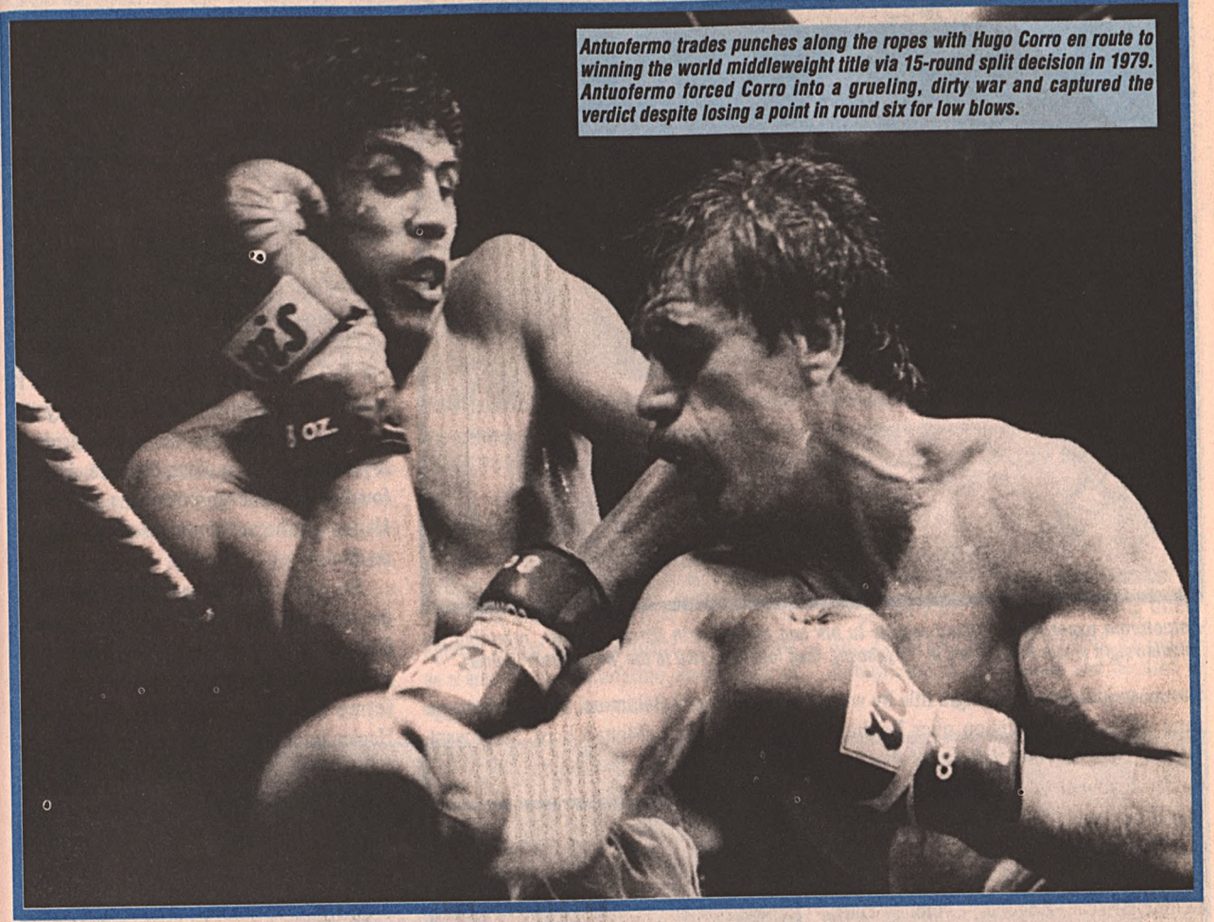
"For A Fighter Who Took So Many Punches, I Still Look Good"

By Robert Cassidy

Vito Antuofermo climbed through the ropes and into the ring. He wore a black boxing robe over his street clothes. His physique and visage still had the look of a man ready for a fight. Antuofermo peered across the ring at Emile Griffith. He began to walk toward his former adversary. Then he stopped, grabbed the microphone from the ring announcer and, in his best Don Corleone voice, said, "This time, I'm gonna make you an offer you can't refuse."

Griffith and the rest of the house broke out in laughter. Antuofermo and Griffith fought for real in 1974 at Madison Square Garden. They shared the ring again in June as part of a fundraising event for Ring 8, the New York chapter of the Veteran Boxers Association. The group honored Griffith and Antuofermo along with former world champions Joey Giardello and Tony DeMarco at the Waterfront Crab House in Queens, New York.

It was clearly a night for reminiscing about the glory days. Antuofermo, Griffith, Giardello, and DeMarco shared stories of their ring battles with each other and with the numerous fans who greeted them. Antuofermo, whose blood-and-guts style forever endeared him to the New York boxing faithful, was the house favorite.



Antuofermo trades punches along the ropes with Hugo Corro en route to winning the world middleweight title via 15-round split decision in 1979. Antuofermo forced Corro into a grueling, dirty war and captured the verdict despite losing a point in round six for low blows.

"I think one of the reasons people still like me," said Antuofermo, "is because, let's face it, for a fighter who took so many punches, I still look good. I'm in shape and I talk to people."

There is one thing, however, that separates Antuofermo from the rest of the honorees—his second career as an actor. When people approach him, the questions can vary from his fights with Marvelous Marvin Hagler to what it was like acting alongside Al Pacino.

"Acting is a challenge," said Antuofermo. "But I can get emotional. That's what acting is all about. Understanding the part and being able to express yourself—which I enjoy."

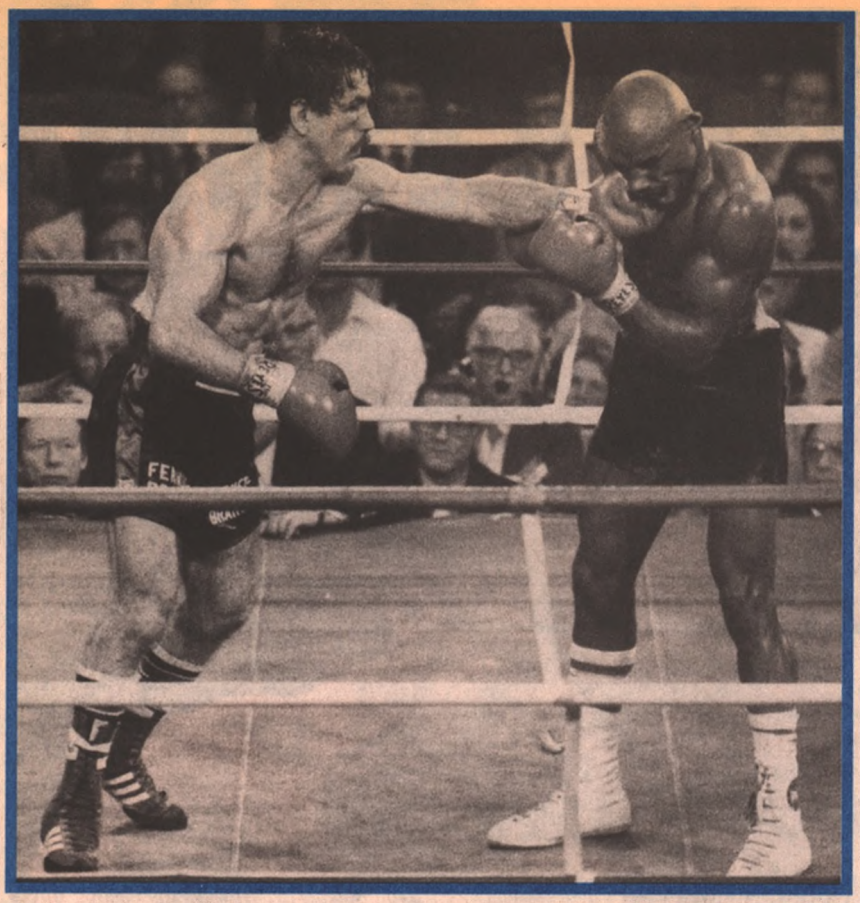
Antuofermo, 47, would like to make a full-time career out of acting, but the work isn't steady enough for him to quit his job as a longshoreman on the New Jersey waterfront. The former champ lives in Howard Beach, Queens, with his wife Joan. They have four children: Lauren, 23, who is in the Air Force, Vito Jr., 21, a student at NYU, Patty, 17, who just graduated from John Adams High School with honors and will attend NYU in the fall, and Anthony, 12, who is still in grammar school.

Antuofermo's second son, "Patty Boy," was unbeaten in a few amateur fights, but his parents steered him away from boxing and back into education. "He's strong like me," Antuofermo said. "He has muscles on top of muscles. But we said, 'Don't fight; you are too smart. To be a fighter, you have to be brought up rough. You have to fight your way out.'"

Antuofermo certainly fought his way to the top. He was born in Bari, Italy, and came to the United States in 1969. A year later he won the New York Golden Gloves title, outpointing future world champion Eddie Gregory (today known as Eddie Mustafa Muhammad) in the 147-pound finals. He turned pro in 1971 as a junior middleweight, and by 1974 had scored important victories over former champs Denny Moyer and Griffith.

"It was a damn good fight, and he won it," said Griffith of their bout 26 years ago. "I was going down at the time, and he was coming up at the time. The way he fought me, I knew he'd be a champ. The important thing is, we were friends then, and we are friends now."

In 1976, Antuofermo captured the



Antuofermo experienced mixed results in his two battles with Marvin Hagler, retaining the middleweight crown with a draw in '79 (above), then losing by TKO in the '81 rematch (below).

European junior middleweight title by winning a 15-round decision over Eckhard Dagge. He made one defense of that title before losing it to Maurice Hope. After that loss, Antuofermo blasted through the middleweight division, running off nine consecutive wins, including victories over Bennie Briscoe, Eugene "Cyclone" Hart, and Willie Classen. The streak culminated in 1979 with a 15-round decision over Hugo Corro for the world middleweight title.

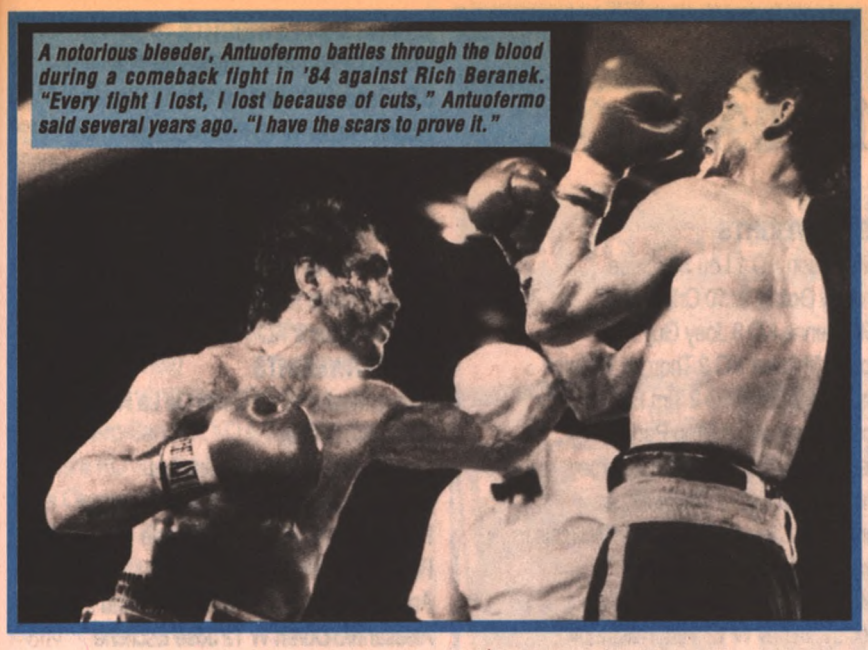
Antuofermo was a rugged in-fighter who possessed one of the best chins the division has ever seen. He was prone to cuts and had tender skin around his eyes, but his enormous heart made him one of New York's most popular fighters. He was the last in a long, proud tradition of Italian middleweight champions that included Rocky Graziano, Jake LaMotta, Giardello, and Nino Benvenuti.

"When I first started, I was a boxer like Nino Benvenuti," said Antuofermo. "Benvenuti was my idol. The first fight I ever saw on television was Benvenuti against Emile Griffith. But then once when I was fighting in Baltimore, someone gave me a copy of Jake LaMotta's book, and I wanted to fight like Jake, so I changed my style."

In his first defense of the middleweight title, Antuofermo fought to a thrilling 15-round draw against Marvin Hagler in November of '79, though many considered him lucky to keep the title. Hagler seemed in command early, while Antuofermo rallied over the second half of the fight. He lost the crown in his next defense, dropping a 15-round split decision to Alan Minter in 1980. He fought a rematch with Minter later that year in London and was stopped on cuts in the eighth round.

"One of my biggest problems in the fights I lost was the referee," said Antuofermo. "Against Alan Minter, the referee just wouldn't let me fight my fight. Every time I got inside, Minter would hold and Carlos Padilla would step in. He wouldn't let me fight on the inside. When I got on top of a guy, it didn't matter who it was because I never came across anyone who was as strong as me on the inside. I loved to fight at a close distance. Hagler fought me. He never took a step backward. He thought he could outmuscle me, but he couldn't."

By 1981, Hagler had taken control of the title and gave Antuofermo a rematch. This time, Hagler scored a fifth-round stoppage at the Boston Garden. Antuofermo retired shortly after the second Hagler fight and then won four comeback fights before retiring again after a 1985



A notorious bleeder, Antuofermo battles through the blood during a comeback fight in '84 against Rich Beranek. "Every fight I lost, I lost because of cuts," Antuofermo said several years ago. "I have the scars to prove it."

TKO loss to Matthew Hilton. In 1993, Antuofermo flirted with yet another comeback and began training at Gleason's Gym in Brooklyn, New York. He was about to headline a card in New York when he was denied a license to fight by the New York State Athletic Commission.

"Randy Gordon was the chairman then," said Antuofermo. "He came and watched me train. He said I looked good. But they saw something cloudy on the CATscan. It was a spot, it wasn't anything specific, but they wouldn't give me the okay to fight. After that, I never pursued it."

Antuofermo says he will always miss boxing. He follows the big fights and was particularly disappointed in how Oscar De La Hoya allowed the fight to slip away against Sugar Shane Mosley. To a fighter as relentless as Antuofermo, such a lack of aggressiveness is inconceivable.

"He didn't throw punches," said Antuofermo. "And De La Hoya's trainer told him nothing. You have to talk to him, say something even if you just tell him to jab. But Mosley impresses me. He has fast hands. I didn't even see those hands moving."

After boxing, Antuofermo invested his ring earnings in a pizzeria and a rental property in Queens. At the time he retired, acting was the farthest thing from his mind.

"One day I got a call from these people from Los Angeles who wanted to talk to me," said Antuofermo. "My first response was, 'I'm not fighting anymore.' But they said, 'No, come meet us, this isn't about boxing.' Something happened at the building I owned, and I really didn't feel like going. The building was a real headache because something always broke or someone didn't pay the rent. So I was in a bad mood, and I walk in to see these guys and I said, 'I'm Vito, what the f___ do you want?'"

It turned out the meeting was with Fred Roos, the executive director of *The Godfather Part III*, and his casting director. They had seen a boxing photo of Antuofermo in a restaurant and decided to

(Continued on page 63)

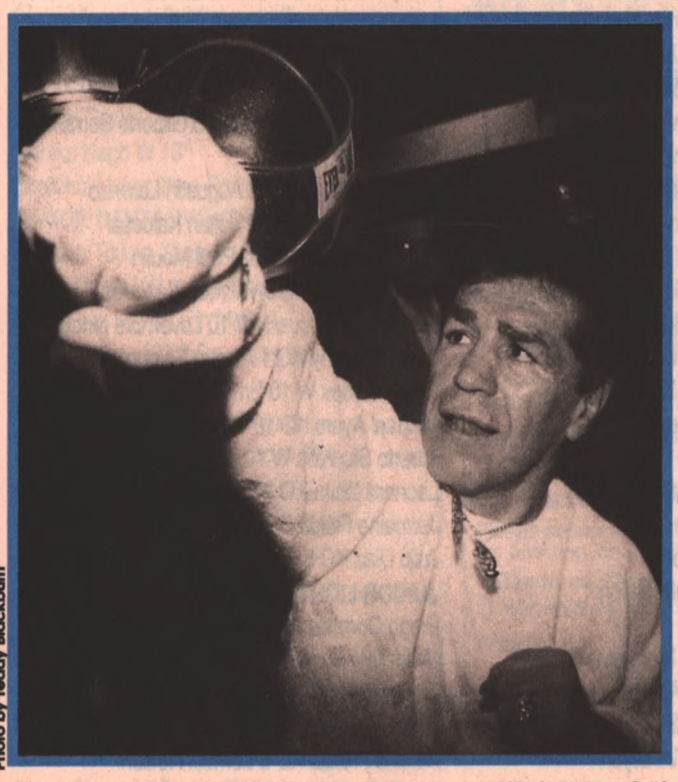


Photo by Teddy Blackburn

Antuofermo, seen punching the speedbag in '94, was considering a comeback at the age of 40 until an inconclusive CATscan convinced him to stay retired.

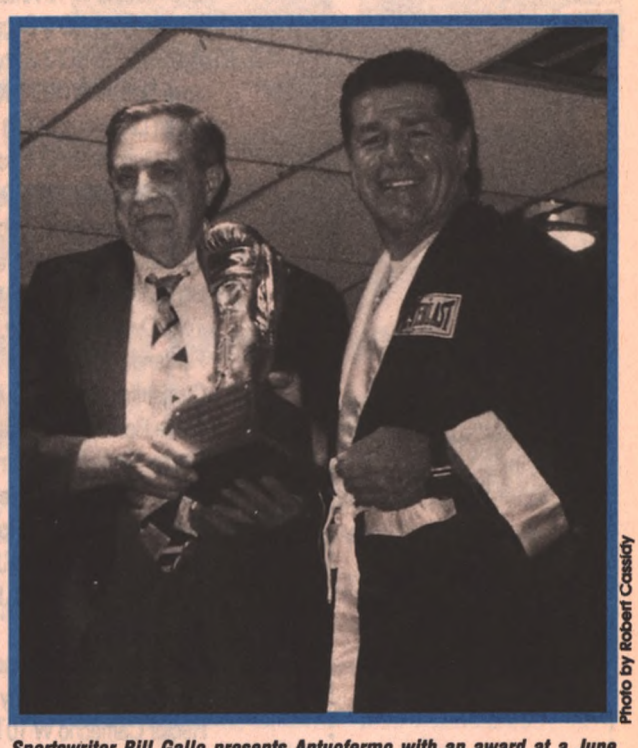


Photo by Robert Cassidy

Sportswriter Bill Gallo presents Antuofermo with an award at a June fundraising event for Ring 8. The occasion allowed Antuofermo a chance to reminisce with other ex-champs Emile Griffith (a former Antuofermo opponent), Joey Giardello, and Tony DeMarco.

SUMMARY

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Mike Tyson KO 1 Lou Savarese
Andrew Golota W 10 Orlin Norris
Cliff Etienne KO 3 Joey Guy
Mount Whitaker KO 2 Thomas Williams
Danell Nicholson KO 2 Tim Pollard
Robert Davis KO 8 Greg Page
Fres Oquendo W 10 Ramon Garbey
Ahmad Abdin KO 3 Tony LaRosa
Jameel McCline D 10 Sherman Williams
Terrance Lewis W 8 Brian Nix
Peter McNeeley KO 1 Joe Siciliano
Nicolay Valuev W 12 Yuri Yelistratov
Cliff Couser W 10 Dale Crowe
Danny Williams KO 1 Craig Bowen-Price
Raymund Hayes KO 1 Attila Levin
Joe Mesi KO 2 Matt Green
Butterbean KO 2 Kerry Biles

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Adam Watt KO 4 Bruce Scott
Dan Sheehan KO 1 Marcel Alexander
Freeda Foreman KO 2 LaQuanda Sanders

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Eric Harding W 12 Antonio Tarver
Merqui Sosa KO 6 Segundo Mercado
Robert Koon KO 3 Jerry Brown
Jose Spearman KO 2 Nathan Russell
Julian Letterlough KO 1 Manny Rose
Julio Gonzalez KO 4 Tony Menefee

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Silvio Branco W 12 Robin Reid
Roberto Duran W 12 Pat Lawlor
Scott Pemberton KO 9 Glenwood Brown
Toks Owoh KO 3 Tony Booth
Fernando Zuniga KO 1 Anton Robinson
Demetrius Jenkins KO 4 Kippy Warren
Steve Roberts W 12 Mike Algoet
Manny Siaca KO 1 Terry Ford
Nader Hamdan W 8 Heath Stenton
Fathi Missaoui KO 3 Ron Pasek
Laila Ali KO 1 Marjorie Jones
Karrie Frye W 4 Maria Johannson

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Bert Schenk W 6 Marino Monteyne
Carl Daniels KO 6 Tony Adams
Hector Camacho W 10 Billy Fox
Hector Camacho KO 5 Tim Bryan
Anthony Van Niekerk KO 10 Mondli Mbonambi
Sam Soliman KO 9 Neville Brown

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Bronco McKart W 12 Jason Papillion
J.C. Candelo W 10 Tony Badea
Robert Frazier W 10 Pedro Ortega
Tito Mendoza W 10 Pat Coleman
Quirino Garcia KO 4 Miguel Julio
Derrick Graham W 10 Emil Baku
Paolo Roberto W 8 Anthony Ivory
Darrell Woods KO 3 Kenny Ellis
Carlos Baldomir KO 7 Jose Luis Blanco

WELTERWEIGHTS
Shane Mosley W 12 Oscar De La Hoya
(Wins WBC Title)
Oba Carr W 10 Juan Soberanes
Shannan Taylor W 10 Charles Whittaker
Reggie Green KO 5 Kent Hardee
Ray Oliveira KO 6 Isaac Cruz
Antonio Margarito KO 2 David Kamau
Alessandro Duran W 12 Jose Escriche
Scott DePompe KO 4 Keith Canton
Hercules Kyvelos W 8 Wayne Boudreaux

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS
Zab Judah W 12 Junior Witter
(Retains IBF Title)
Antonio Diaz W 12 Omar Weis
Hector Camacho Jr. KO 4 Manard Reed
Darryl Tyson W 8 Emmanuel Clottey
Wilfredo Vilches KO 10 Francisco Mezquita
Chucky T. KO 5 Mike Tidline-El
Ricky Hatton KO 2 Gilbert Quiroz

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Jose Luis Castillo W 12 Stevie Johnston
(Wins WBC Title)
Takanori Hatakeyama KO 8 Gilberto Serrano
(Wins WBA Title)
Angel Manfredy KO 1 Augustin Lorenzo
Artur Grigorian KO 12 Zoltan Kalocsai
Stefano Zoff W 6 Jean-Paul Moulin
Juan Lazcano KO 9 Wilfredo Vazquez
Guillermo Mosquera W 10 Lovemore Ndou
Lamar Murphy KO 1 Alonzo Sojourney
Steve Forbes W 10 Ernesto Zepeda
Michael Ayers KO 10 Wayne Rigby
Alberto Sicurella W 10 Justo Martinez
Leonard Dorin KO 8 Juan Aponte
Jermaine Fields D 8 Awel Abdulia
Julio Diaz KO 5 Gustavo Cuello

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS
Diego Corrales KO 10 Justin Juuko
(Non-Title Bout)
Erik Morales KO 3 Mike Juarez
(Non-Title Bout)
Acelino Freitas KO 2 Lemuel Nelson
Jesus Chavez KO 2 Russell Mosley
John Brown W 12 Robbie Peden

Carlos Navarro KO 9 Nestor Lopez
Tom Johnson KO 4 Felipe Garcia
David Santos KO 6 David Tucker
Tiger Ari D 12 Won Bo Chun
Charles Shepherd W 12 Rakhim Mingaleev
Bernard Harris KO 4 Ernest Koffi
Alejandro Estrada W 12 Saul Briseno
Justo Sencion W 10 Felix St. Kitts

FEATHERWEIGHTS

Guty Espadas W 12 Wethya Sakmuangklang
(Retains WBC Title)
Istvan Kovacs W 12 Steve Robinson
Hector Acero-Sanchez KO 6 Catalino Becerra
Kozo Ishii KO 10 Hino Kiet Ubon
Angel Chacon W 8 Rodolfo Blanco
Motokazu Abe KO 1 Ahmad Fandy
Toshikage Kimura KO 5 Haruhiko Okuda

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS

Marco Antonio Barrera KO 1 Luiz Freitas
Manny Pacquiao KO 1 Seung Kwon Chae
Oscar Larios W 12 Cesar Soto
Willie Jorrin W 10 Marcos Badillo
Michael Brodie KO 4 Mustafa Hame
Michael Alldis KO 4 Bagdad Touama
Eduardo Alvarez KO 3 Luis Daniel Barroso
Michael Gomez KO 2 Carl Allen

BANTAMWEIGHTS

Veerapol Sahaprom W 12 Toshiaki Nishioka
(Retains WBC Title)
Jorge Lacierva KO 8 Carlos Hernandez
Diego Morales KO 7 Carmelo Caceres
Leopoldo Arrocha W 8 Alex Baba
Hugo Dianzo W 12 Francisco Mateos
Genaro Garcia W 10 Evangelio Perez
Akihiko Nago W 10
Chatchai Nakornthon-Parkview

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS

Samson Toyota-Thailand KO 8 Raffi Aladi
Javier Torres KO 1 Julio Cesar Avila
Keith Knox KO 3 Colin Moffett
Debind Thapa KO 2 Cesar Cortez

FLYWEIGHTS

Pedro Pena KO 3 Poffilio Torres
Damaen Kelly W 12 Jose Lopez Bûeno
Bebis Mendoza KO 3 Francis Arosemena
Hussein Hussein KO 1 Dave Coldwell

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS

Yosam Choi KO 5 Chart Kiatpetch
(Retains WBC Title)
Juanito Rubillar W 12 Jinho Kim
Wolf Tokimitsu KO 7 Toga Pandiangan
Keitaro Hoshino W 10 Hiroshi Nakajima

STRAWWEIGHTS

Sizwe Sinyabi KO 1 Andile Mahlahla
Jairo Arango KO 7 Jorge Sanchez

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RINGSIDE REPORTS

FIGHTER *of the* MONTH

When Mosley first became a world champion by outpointing Philip Holiday for the IBF lightweight belt, the headline in THE RING read "Sugar Shane's No Robinson ... Yet." The key word there was "yet," because based on his sensational performance against Oscar De La Hoya that earned him the WBC welterweight title, the old-timers can no longer riot when you mention Mosley and the great Ray Robinson in the same breath.

At the midway point of his date with "Destiny," Mosley was trailing slightly and in danger of letting De La Hoya take over completely. So Mosley made adjustments. He upped his punch output. He switched to southpaw periodically. He used more and more of his trademark bodyshots. The result was a frustrated, outgunned De La Hoya who knew he needed to open up to avoid defeat, but also knew letting his hands go was just an invitation for Mosley's quicker fists to batter him.

Sugar Shane captured the split decision and the imagination of sports fans the world over, having become the first man to defeat "The Golden Boy" without a hint of controversy. He is the Fighter of the Month, the best welterweight in the world, and, in THE RING's eyes, the best fighter in the world, pound-for-pound. Of course, he's still not quite Ray Robinson. At least not yet.

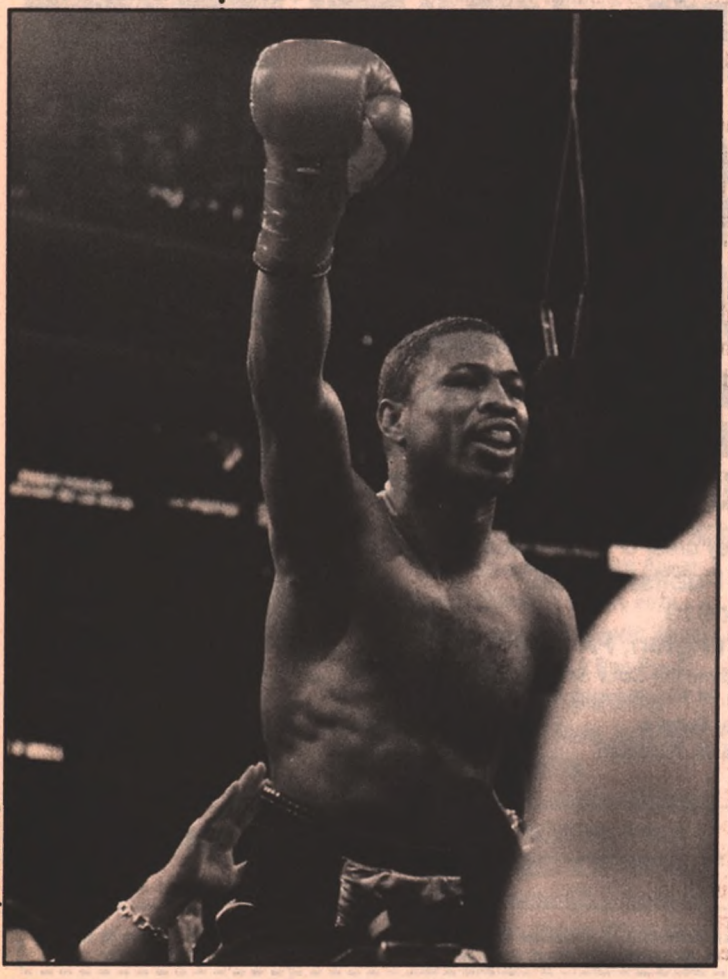
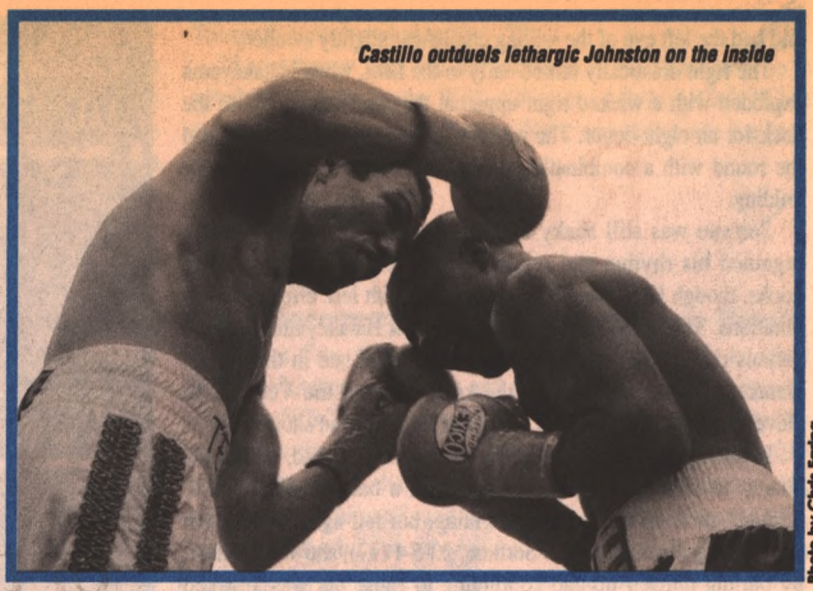


Photo by Chris Farina

Shane Mosley

Jose Luis Castillo W 12 Steve Johnston



Castillo outduels lethargic Johnston on the inside

Photo by Chris Farina

Bell Gardens, California: By the time the first round was over, you could tell that obscure challenger Castillo was no chump. By the end of the third, you could already smell upset. And as the action-packed rounds progressed, the comparisons to Johnston's last loss quickly became all too obvious.

Like the defending WBC lightweight champion's decision defeat to Cesar Bazan in June 1998, the bout was fought at an outdoor arena (in this case, the parking lot of the Bicycle Club Casino), against a tall Mexican challenger. But most significantly, also like the Bazan loss, Johnston made the mistake of trying to fight a stronger man on the inside. And, of course, the final irony of the deja vu experience was that Johnston, making his fifth defense of his second reign, came away from the fight minus the title after losing a closely contested majority decision.

To most observers, underdog Castillo, 135, came into the fight a virtual unknown. Sure, his 40-4 (37) record looked pretty good on paper, but almost all of his fights had been in Mexico, where stats can often be misleading. Nonetheless, Castillo was no face-first slugger of the typical Mexican persuasion. He fought a canny fight, showing a surprisingly efficient defense and the ability to lure Johnston into the trenches, where he generally got the better of the frequent exchanges.

The bout got off to a workman-like start, and by the third round the pace had gone from brisk to bristling. The third was also one of southpaw Johnston's best rounds, as he jerked Castillo's head back with four straight lefts. But the challenger was far from discouraged, and although he was penalized a point by referee Chuck Hassett (USA) for refusing to break in the fourth, the Mexican still had the better of several punishing exchanges, and Johnston's right eye had already started to swell.

Castillo, 26, was the sharper, cleaner puncher during the up-close give-and-take that highlighted the fifth and sixth. Johnston, 135, landed plenty, too, but he was spitting blood at the end of the sixth, and must have known that the title was in jeopardy.

The pace slowed a bit in the seventh. Although the ring was shaded by a large tarp, it was a hot afternoon, made even more so by the TV lights. Johnston's corner draped a wet towel over his head between the seventh and eighth rounds, and he came out for the eighth on his toes, using his legs to dart in, score, and escape before Castillo, 135, could retaliate. But he couldn't keep it up, and by the last minute of the round, Johnston was flat-footed again, working on the inside, where the challenger's strength and right hand ruled the day.

Johnston, 30-2 (15), looked like he might turn things around when he outslugged Castillo during the rousing ninth round, but it was the challenger's turn again in the 10th. And as they entered the championship rounds, it was clear that Johnston needed to dominate the final six minutes if he was going to hang on to the title. He never stopped trying, but Castillo matched him punch-for-punch in the scorching 11th, and frustrated Johnston's final-round rally by holding whenever Johnston started to put some punches together.

Castillo's fans began to celebrate before the decision was announced, but let out a collective groan when Judge Dick Young (USA) scored the bout even, 114-114. The mini-fiesta resumed when it was announced that judges James Jen-Kin (USA) and Gelasio Percy (Mexico) voted for Castillo by tallies of 116-111 and 115-113, respectively. THE RING saw Castillo the winner, by a narrow 115-114 margin.

"He had good tactics inside," said Johnston, who took the fight for a relatively small purse (a reported $100,000) in order to showcase his skills on ABC's *Wide World Of Sports*. "I messed up my career today, but I can rebuild."

The best way to do that would be to fight Castillo again. After all, Johnston beat Bazan handily in their February '99 rematch. Maybe history will repeat itself.

Promoter: Top Rank

(6-17-00)

Nigel Collins

Takanori Hatakeyama KO 8 Gilberto Serrano

Tokyo, Japan: Former WBA 130-pound champ Hatakeyama, 135, annexed the WBA lightweight title, as he dropped Venezuelan Serrano, 135, five times and finally finished him at 2:30 of the eighth round of a give-and-take thriller before some 10,000 spectators at Ariake Coliseum. Hatakeyama, returning from a brief "retirement" after suffering the only defeat of his career against Lakva Sim last June, sent the champ to the deck once in the fifth, once in the seventh, and thrice more in the fateful eighth. The Venezuelan's suspect chin spelled his undoing, as he eventually succumbed under the Japanese challenger's fusillade of punches.

Serrano, 30, began his second title defense well with a fine series of sharp left hands, but Hatakeyama, 24, landed two solid overhand rights that shook him up late in the opening session. (Two judges had the first for Serrano, while the third had it for Hatakeyama.)

The Venezuelan regrouped to completely dominate the second through fourth rounds, as he kept jabbing and countering his onrushing opponent. Serrano repeatedly caught the target with accurate, stinging lefts, uppercuts, and lead rights nearly at will,

and had the left eye of the willing challenger slightly swollen.

The fight drastically turned early in the fifth, when Hatakeyama exploded with a wicked right uppercut that sent the champ to the deck for an eight-count. The rubbery-legged Serrano barely lasted the round with a combination of desperate retaliation and timely holding.

Serrano was still shaky early in the sixth, but he gradually regained his rhythm and retaliated with accurate jabs and left hooks, though Hatakeyama kept boring in with less effective combinations. The seventh was all Serrano, until Hatakeyama landed a vicious right cross to floor him near the ropes late in the stanza. Hatakeyama went all out for the knockout, but the Venezuelan cleverly grabbed him to keep him from landing solid shots.

In the eighth, Hatakeyama came out with all he had, pinned the champ to the ropes, and sank him with a barrage of punches. Serrano stood up and resumed fighting, but fell again from a left hook during a hot exchange. Serrano, 20-5-1 (17), showed his heart by pulling himself up and continuing to fight, but was knocked down yet again by a left hook with 30 seconds to go in the round. Referee Armando Garcia (USA) declared the fight over due to the three-knockdown rule.

Through seven rounds, judges Lou Tabat (USA) and Guillermo Perez (Panama) both had it 66-65 for Hatakeyama, and Erkki Meronen (Finland) saw it 66-66. It was a close affair despite the champ repeatedly suffering visits to the canvas.

Newly crowned champ Hatakeyama, 23-1-2 (17), is expected to make his first defense against hard-punching compatriot Hiroyuki Sakamoto in October, a pairing that is sure to draw a huge crowd in Japan.

Promoter: Yokohama Hikari Promotions in association with Teiken Promotions

(6-11-00)

Joe Koizumi

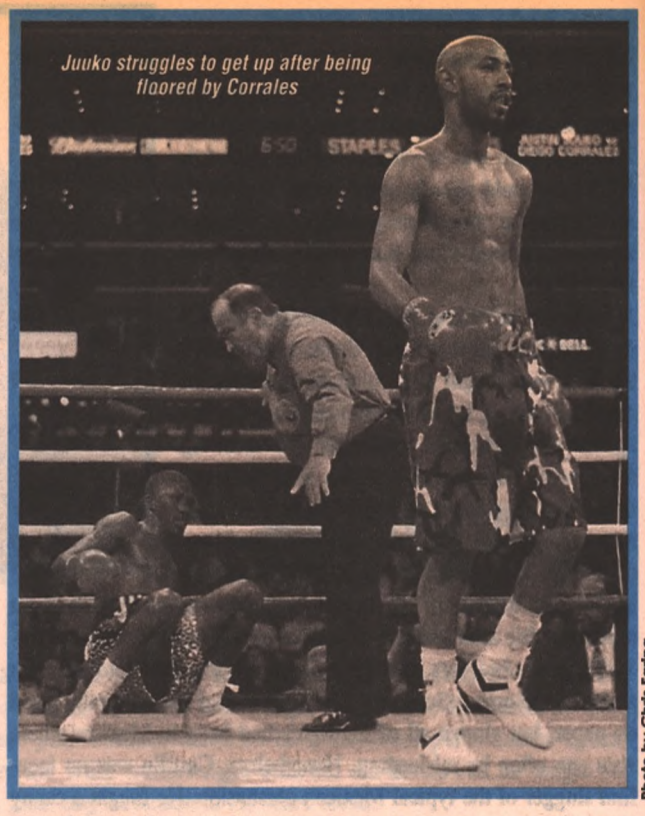
Diego Corrales KO 10 Justin Juuko

Los Angeles, California: Although the IBF junior lightweight belt held by Corrales was not on the line—the embattled organization refused to sanction the bout because Juuko was not among its rated contenders—it was still scheduled for 12 rounds, as the lightly regarded IBA belt was at stake. But regardless of all the alphabet nonsense, the match was considered a good measuring stick with which to compare Corrales and his arch-rival, WBC super lightweight champion Floyd Mayweather, who had stopped Juuko in the ninth round of their May 1999 title bout.

The comparison, however, wasn't really fair because Juuko had taken the Mayweather fight on short notice, and despite a brave stand, was not at his best. The native of Uganda, now fighting out of Las Vegas, was better prepared and had more success against Corrales than he did against Mayweather, but ultimately crumbled under "Chico's" crushing punching power.

Juuko, 129½, used intelligent movement, a crisp jab, and an occasional right to get off to a promising start. But Corrales, 130, Sacramento, California, began to reach him with powershots in the third and dropped him with a pair of booming lefts in the fourth. Juuko beat referee Marty Denkin's count, and was spared further punishment when the bell rang shortly after he regained his feet.

Juuko, 34-5-1 (25), looked spent in the fifth, but pulled himself together well enough to battle on relatively even terms the next few rounds. Corrales was forced to absorb quite a few rights to the head, and a spirited, two-fisted flurry by Juuko in the ninth brought a roar from the Staples Center crowd of 20,744 that had come to see Shane Mosley and Oscar De La Hoya in the main event.



Juuko struggles to get up after being floored by Corrales

Photo by Chris Farina

But Juuko paid dearly for his bravery, and Corrales' superior firepower brought what was shaping up to be a helluva fight to an abrupt halt in the 10th. The end came after the champion capped a bruising exchange with a right to the head that sent Juuko crumpling to the canvas. Denkin (USA) jumped in and immediately stopped the fight at the 2:45 mark without benefit of a count. The call seemed premature from the press section, but the battered African offered no protest.

"I threw a million punches," said Corrales. "It took everything I had. Juuko was very tough, my God."

Television: TVKO

Promoter: Top Rank

(6-17-00)

Nigel Collins

Zolani Petelo KO 8 Mickey Cantwell

Ashford, England: Bravery was all British challenger Cantwell, 105, had to offer against Petelo, one of the more accomplished performers in the lighter weights. Class told as, Petelo, 105, South Africa, retained the IBF mini flyweight title for the fifth time in resounding fashion with an eighth-round stoppage at Stour Leisure Centre.

The body attack of the 24-year-old Petelo was particularly potent. One hard left as early as the second proved the foundation of his victory.

"That shot took the life out of me," Cantwell admitted later. "He took my legs away with that punch."

The challenger held his own in the first round, but by the second Petelo's edge in power was evident. Cantwell was warned for punching low, but the South African was deadly accurate with bodyshots that had his opponent struggling to disguise their withering effect. From his awkward southpaw stance, Petelo unleashed a telling left uppercut and right hook combination in the third as Cantwell became cornered. A hard right increased Cantwell's discomfort. But he clung on. At 36, he knew this would be his final chance to lift a world title.

Petelo, unfortunately for the challenger, was in no mood for sentimentality. Even when he was caught by the odd meaningful punch from his shorter adversary, it had no impact. He would smile and Cantwell's gloom would grow.

After he had briefly threatened to rally in the fifth, Cantwell's doom was sealed in the seventh, when a left hook to the midriff put him down near the ropes. He rose at nine, but Petelo, 16-2-2 (9), was determined to finish him. The intervention of the bell merely delayed the inevitable. Cantwell was in no position to evade the champion's eighth-round onslaught, and referee Dave Parris (England) rightly stepped in at the 59-second mark to save the challenger from further punishment.

"He's very clever in there and he was just too much for me in the end," Cantwell, 14-6-1 (2), reflected. "The referee was right to stop the fight as I wasn't hitting back. I wasn't able to."

Promoter: Sports Network
(6-2-00)
Brian Doogan

Erik Morales KO 3 Mike Juarez

Los Angeles, California: You could tell that WBC super bantamweight champ Morales is approaching superstar status by the rousing reception he received from the capacity crowd at the Staples Center. Besides Oscar De La Hoya and Muhammad Ali, he got the biggest pop of the night when he entered the ring for his non-title bout with Juarez. But Morales could have just as well limited his appearance on the Mosley-De La Hoya card to taking a bow, because the fight itself was a cruel mismatch.

As it was Morales' first venture above 122 pounds since winning the super bantam title in September '97 (he hopes to win a second world title at featherweight), you couldn't blame Top Rank for being careful. But putting him in with Juarez was inexcusable. To his credit, Juarez came to fight, but was totally unequipped for the task.

The clubfighter from Omaha, Nebraska, seemed eager to mix it up, even after Morales, 128, dropped him with a jab in the first round, and "El Terrible" was only too happy to accommodate him. A crackling right-left combination dumped Juarez, 128½, again in the second, but the round-ending bell saved him in time for target practice to continue.

When a left and a vicious right dropped Juarez, 22-9-1 (9), in the third, referee James Jen-Kin (USA) quickly called if off at the 1:12 mark, running the Tijuana favorite's record to 37-0 (29).

"I was happy with my performance," said Morales, who is scheduled to fight for the WBC 126-pound belt in the fall. "I had an opponent who was willing to fight, and that made me look good."

Television: TVKO
(6-17-00)
Nigel Collins

Joel Casamayor KO 5 Jongkwon Baek

Kansas City, Missouri: In 1997, Diobelys Hurtado knocked Pernell Whitaker down twice and seemed well on his way to winning the WBC welterweight title when he was dramatically stopped in the 11th round. In '98, Ramon Ledon had then-IBF junior lightweight champion Roberto Garcia on the canvas, but couldn't finish him off, and was blasted out himself in the fifth. Casamayor, the third member of the Cuban refugee flock known as Team Freedom to challenge for a world title, did not meet a similar fate when he met reluctant defending WBA super featherweight champion Baek at Harrah's North Kansas City Casino. The bout was stopped in Casamayor's favor on cuts at 2:18 of the fifth.

Casamayor, 130, Miami, Florida, began the bout tentatively, but started to loosen up in the final minute of the first, scoring with a pair of southpaw jabs and a solid left cross. Baek, 130, South Korea, missed a wild left hook in return, and the slick Casamayor scored with two hard lefts, illustrating by round's end that Baek was badly outclassed and would need a minor miracle to win.

The 28-year-old champion made few attempts to create such a miracle, however, and Casamayor, also 28, was able to relax and pick the Korean apart. Casamayor caught Baek charging in early in the second, staggering him with a left uppercut. In the third, a flurry from Casamayor appeared to open a small cut above Baek's left eyelid.

Bleeding from above both eyes by the fourth, Baek continued to try to box conservatively from the outside, but was getting nothing done. Referee Mitch Halpern (USA) called time for the ring doctor to examine the cuts, and when the action resumed, Baek finally began letting his punches go. Casamayor was too elusive, though, and he continued to dominate with jabs and counters until Halpern waved it off late in the fifth. The cuts didn't seem severe enough to

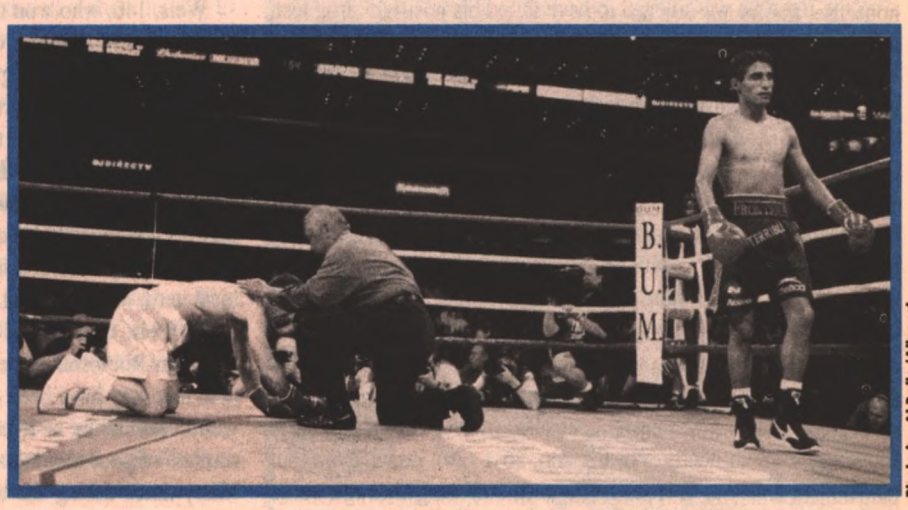
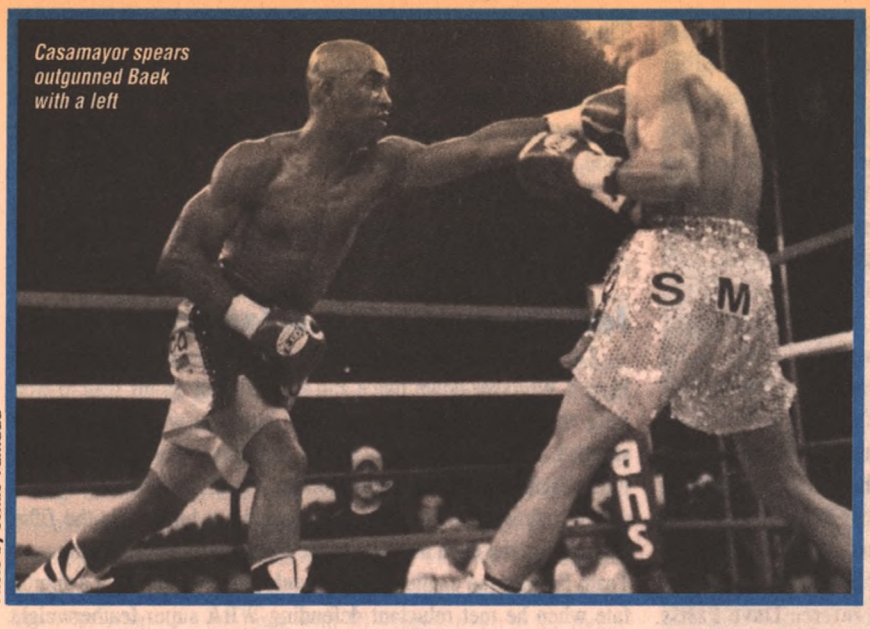


Photo by Al Bello/Allsport

Ref Jen-Kin wisely halts the Morales-Juarez mismatch in the third



Casamayor spears outgunned Baek with a left

Photo by Sumio Yamada

warrant the stoppage in and of themselves, but the one-sided nature of the bout made it justifiable.

"I just had a small cut from a headbutt," said an upset Baek, 21-1-1 (18), after failing in his second title defense. "I don't know why they stopped the fight. I'm a slow starter. I hadn't really warmed up."

"I tried to box and be cool," said Casamayor, 21-0 (13). "A lot of people think Cuban amateurs can't make it in the pros, but I had Joe Goossen training me, and we proved different."

Television: Fox SportsNet

Promoter: America Presents

(5-21-00)

Fred Norwood W 12 Julio Pablo Chacon

Mendoza, Argentina: First the good news: WBA featherweight champion Norwood, 126, was as brilliant as ever in taking apart previously unbeaten mandatory challenger Chacon in the 25-year-old Argentine's hometown. Now the bad news: Norwood's unsportsmanlike antics led many in the crowd of 15,000 at Malvinas Argentinas football stadium to pelt him with garbage after the fight, he was alleged to have failed his postfight drug test, he was arrested for a pair of outstanding warrants upon returning to the United States, and there was a threat that he might be stripped of the WBA title as we went to press. *(For the whole story behind Norwood's outside-the-ring problems, see page 32.)*

But as far as the third defense of Norwood's second featherweight title reign goes, it was an exhibition of "Li'l Hagler" at his best. The clever 30-year-old southpaw champ dropped the nervous looking Chacon, 125¾, with an excellent left hand in the third, and the challenger, extra cautious from that point on, rarely let his hands go. Chacon's only chance came in the eighth when Norwood, St. Louis, Missouri, suffered a cut on his right eyebrow, but the champion was too slippery for Chacon to do any further damage, and the cut was easily controlled by Norwood's corner. A flurry in the ninth nearly sent Chacon, 36-1 (26), down again, but he remained on his feet until the end, suffering through some antagonizing and showboating from Norwood before losing a unanimous decision by slightly friendly hometown scores of 117-111 (Manuel Gonzalez, Colombia), 118-109 (Samuel Conde, Puerto Rico), and 116-112 (Luis Rodriguez, Venezuela).

"I punished the kid," Norwood, 37-0-1 (21), said. "Every time I hurt him, I let him go to punish him some more. I did what I said I would."

"Freddie took care of business all the way," trainer Ken Adams said, "yet there was one time when I asked him if he thought it was time to finish him off. Freddie said, 'No, I want to punish him and make him pay,' because of the way the crowd was acting. It was a pretty one-sided fight. This cat didn't have the experience to hang with Freddie, and I'm not sure how he got to be ranked number one."

Chacon, a bronze medalist at the '96 Olympics, acknowledged that he was soundly beaten. "I don't know what happened to me," he said. "I just didn't know how to reach him."

The referee was Stanley Christodoulou (South Africa).

Promoter: Osvaldo Rivero Promociones

(5-25-00)

Antonio Diaz W 12 Omar Weis

Indio, California: The only thing missing at the end of this fight were five little words: "The winner and new champion ..." The judges' scoring in favor of Diaz, holder of the lightly regarded IBA super lightweight title, in his hot desert clash with Argentine Weis was a disgrace to every local boxing fan. The problem wasn't really that Diaz got the victory—it was a close fight that the 24-year-old from Coachella, California, may have eked out after falling behind early—but that the scoring was so inexcusably lopsided.

Weis, 27, gave an impressive performance at Fantasy Springs' outdoor arena, in his first appearance stateside. After the horrible decision, he said it would be his last. Hopefully, this was just bitter disappointment speaking, because this is an exciting, world-class fighter who deserves another opportunity.

Weis, 140, who won the vacant Argentine junior welter title on January 14 by stopping Cesar Leiva in 10 rounds, was in superb condition, despite having only been on American soil for six days and having sustained a grueling 14-hour flight. He dominated Diaz, 140, from the outset, to the point that even "Tono's" own corner publicly acknowledged that Weis won the first five rounds. While his fans came out in full force to support him, they too became frustrated with Diaz' lackadaisical performance.

"Pretend you're in a fight!" one of Tono's fans screamed at the local hero, who looked at times like an amateur opposite the formidable Weis. Coming off dazzling displays against James Crayton and Ivan Robinson earlier this year, Diaz fought with a sluggishness that may have been caused by the heat (though that would be weird considering he lives in the desert). It was probably actually a mixture of poor training and total underestimation of his opponent. Many times during the bout, Diaz looked like he wished he was someplace else.

Neither Diaz nor his promotional team at Top Rank apparently expected mystery man Weis to bring the fight to him from the opening bell. But bring it the gutsy Weis did. Despite terrible calls from ref Marty Denkin (USA), who ruled an obvious clash of heads, which opened up a deep gash over Weis' left eye, as a punch, Weis stood his ground, finding a home for his jab on Diaz' face at every opportunity. He also found room to land his big overhand right, while Diaz frequently swung and missed.

In the middle rounds, Diaz regained some lost momentum, but even the urgency of his corner screaming at him to pick up the pace didn't do the trick. Weis kept up the pressure even when Denkin took a point from him in the 11th round for holding—though both fighters were tying each other up in the late rounds.

Diaz, whose trainer Lee Espinoza told him he needed to close the show with a bang, failed to do so. His shoulders sagged until the bizarre decision of the three American judges was announced. The final tallies of 117-110 from Frank Garza and Robert Byrd and 116-111 from Marshall Walker were inexplicable even to those who felt Diaz, 32-2 (22), deserved the nod. Maybe it was the blistering heat, or the proliferation of flies that had gathered on the ring apron blocking the judges' view, but this decision was unbelievable. THE RING scored the bout 115-113 for Weis.

Over the sounds of ESPN2's Max Kellerman booing the judges, Weis, 33-2 (16), said through an interpreter, "This is like a bad dream. I knew I wouldn't get a fair decision here, but I didn't think it would be this bad."

Neither did we.

(6-16-00)

Fiona Manning

Sven Ottke W 12 Tocker Pudwill

Karlsruhe, Germany: Ottke gets no more destructive, but keeps marching on. The German celebrated his 33rd birthday with a comfortable decision over Pudwill, 167, Williston, North Dakota, to retain the IBF super middleweight title for the sixth time. Though he did score two knockdowns, he's had only two knockouts in his entire career and none of the 4,000 at Europahalle anticipated having to catch the early bus home.

Pudwill, 34-4 (13), was never in the fight. He was hospitalized afterward with a foot injury, but it had no bearing. He was simply not up to the challenge. Ottke, 167¾, dominated without having to look devastating. He can expect to be more seriously troubled on September 2 when he is scheduled to meet mandatory challenger Charles Brewer in a rematch of the bout that surprisingly resulted in him claiming the title in October 1998.

A nondescript opening round, save for a cut over the challenger's brow from an unintentional clash of heads that required the attention of the ringside physician, preceded a one-sided second for Ottke, 19-0 (2), which became the pattern of the fight. A sharp right-left from Ottke rocked Pudwill, 28, in the fifth, persuading the American to persistently duck below his opponent's waistline. Referee Raffaele Argiolis (Italy) warned him before deducting a point in the seventh.

The challenger went down for the first time in the ninth as a result of another good left-right, but he responded with his best punch of the fight, a solid right to Ottke's jaw. Nonetheless, he was down again in the next round and remained lacking in ambition for the remainder of the bout. Ottke was satisfied to record yet another points win.

American judge James Howard scored it 119-107, Italy's Benedetto Montella 119-106, and Germany's Manfred Kuchler 118-109, all for the champion. THE RING scored 118-108 for Ottke.

Promoter: Wilfried Sauerland

(6-3-00)

Brian Doogan

Yosam Choi KO 5 Chart Kiatpetch

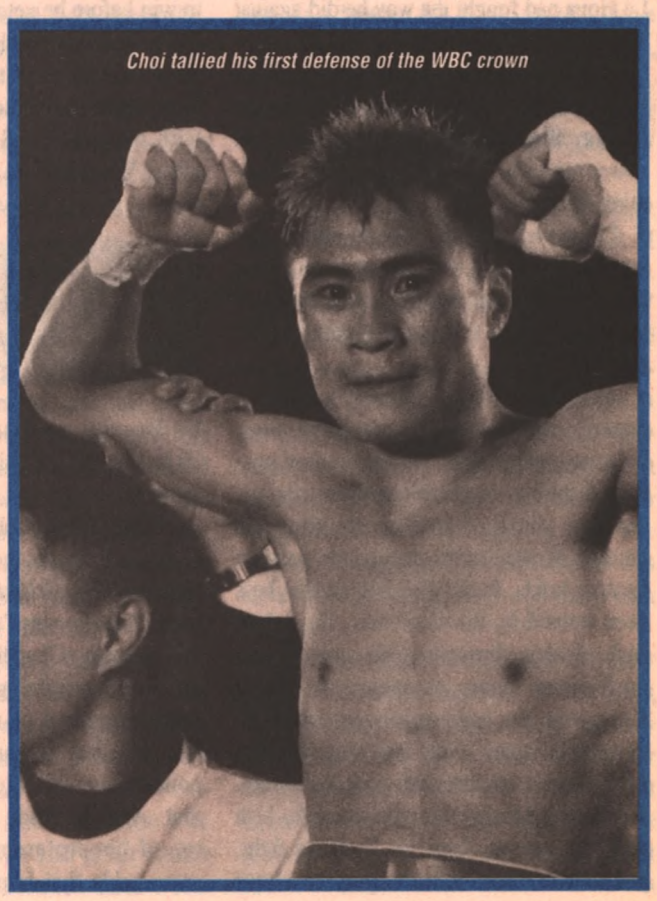
Seoul, South Korea: WBC light flyweight champion Choi made his first successful defense as he dropped Thailand's Kiatpetch twice en route to a knockout victory at 2:50 of the fifth round at Olympic Gymnastic Gymnasium.

It was a lopsided affair. Choi took over from the outset and sent the Thailander sprawling to the deck in the second round. The Korean pressed the action and dominated until finally catching his opponent with a lethal shot to the midsection in the fifth. Kiatpetch collapsed to the canvas, and referee Malcolm Bulner (Australia) counted him out.

Choi, 22-1 (11), will now prepare to make his second defense against former champ Saman Sorjaturong, whom Choi dethroned on an upset decision on October 17, 1999. The rematch will be in Thailand, though a date had not been set as of press time. Sorjaturong has been fighting actively and seems to have regained his previous form, so their rematch should be more competitive than the first fight, which Choi won easily.

(6-17-00)

Joe Koizumi ■



Choi tallied his first defense of the WBC crown

Sugar Shane Mosley

(Continued from page 37)

he feels that his man needs a new trainer if things are to be different the second time around.

"You saw one guy [Mosley] adjust midway through the fight, and you saw the other guy doing the same thing round after round after round," said Arum. "Mosley has a corner that knows what's happening. He adjusted four or five times in the fight."

Rumors that De La Hoya's longtime trainer Robert Alcazar would be fired were widespread as this issue went to press, and nobody would be surprised if someone else is in the ex-champ's corner when he faces Mosley a second time. Virtually every well-known trainer from Emanuel Steward to Floyd Mayweather Sr. has been touted for the job. But regardless of who gets the assignment, many observers believe, in retrospect, that De La Hoya made a mistake by staying directly in front of Mosley and gunning for a knockout. Of course, if De La Hoya had fought the way he did against Trinidad, the same cynics would be bitching that he should have gone for the gusto. Be that as it may, the unanimous decision among those who think De La Hoya can win a rematch is that he has to do something different.

"I guess he could fight me differently by staying on his toes and moving," said Mosley. "But that would mean a battle of jabs, and my jab was my best punch in the first fight."

In other words, in Mosley's mind, it doesn't matter what De La Hoya does, he's not going to win. It's this kind of positive thinking, combined with terrific talent and years of hard work, that has brought Mosley to the prestigious position he now holds. It has also helped that he's been trained by the same man, his father, Jack Mosley, throughout his amateur and professional career, as opposed to De La Hoya, who has had a revolving-door policy when it comes to the men who will prepare him for combat and work his corner. It was Jack Mosley who, between the 11th and 12th rounds of the De La Hoya fight, provided his son with the perfect advice he needed at that particular moment.

"He told me that the last round couldn't be close," said Mosley. "He put it in my mind that I had to either kayo him or look spectacular."

De La Hoya, who also fought the final round with every ounce of his being, was spared the indignity of a knockout defeat, but Sugar Shane sure was spectacular. In one of the best rounds of this or any year, he outpunched his supposedly harder-hitting rival in a dazzling display of give-and-take. It was the sort of spellbinding climax that elevated the fight to another level, which is really saying something when you consider it had been an outstanding fight from the opening bell, made more so by the degree of skill employed by both.

THE RING's pound-for-pound belt that was presented to Mosley at the July photo shoot is not a static award. Just as those who went before him were eventually overtaken by others *(see sidebar on page 37)*, Mosley too will someday slip from the pinnacle. But for now and for the foreseeable future, he's the man, and not only in pound-for-pound terms. Although he has a long way to go and a lot of big fights to win before he gets there, you'd be blind not to see that Mosley has begun to inch closer and closer to the two great warriors who made the name Sugar synonymous with the best the Sweet Science has to offer. We could be in for a very special ride. ■

Jeff Chandler

(Continued from page 39)

Ed Brophy, executive director of the IBHOF, dialed his number in mid-January.

"When Mr. Brophy called, I was ready to jump through the ceiling," Chandler told the *Philadelphia Daily News* at the time. "I really wasn't expecting it at all."

Naturally, Chandler, 43, has changed a bit since his fighting days. His beard had turned gray and he normally wears thick bifocals, but he can't be more than 10 pounds over his old fighting weight, if that. And the pride that took him to the top of his profession is still intact, the same pride that is partly responsible for his disappearing act. Like most stories, the tale of Chandler's quick demise and retreat from public view has many layers, several of which have remained hidden behind a veil of privacy until the compellingly candid interview he granted THE RING on Hall of Fame weekend.

Maybe the best way to understand what happened to Chandler is to start at the end, on October 10, 1984 (the day he underwent the surgery that saved his eyesight and ended his boxing career) and work backward. The procedure came as a total surprise to the triumvirate most closely associated with his career: promoter J Russell Peltz, manager "KO" Becky O'Neill, and trainer Willie O'Neill, Becky's husband. None of them knew in advance that Chandler was going to have the operation.

"Willie called and told me," said Peltz. "Neither Willie nor Becky knew about it beforehand."

It was not, however, a lack of trust or respect that kept Chandler from telling the boxing people closest to him what he was going to do. In fact, it was the complete opposite.

"Me and Russell, we didn't talk like we should have," Chandler told THE RING as he sipped his breakfast coffee in a Canastota hotel room. "Russell and I were always on the same page about things, and I was concerned that if I sat down and talked to Russell, it would cause me to postpone the operation, put it on the back burner for a while. My concern, my mother's concern, my doctor's concern was that the progression of the cataracts had gone a long way since 1982 [when he was first diagnosed with the condition]. They didn't think it was a good idea to wait another day, much less get in the ring and spar again. Me and Russell were so close, I figured that if we sat down and talked about it, I would change my mind."

While the cataract operation was the ultimate cause of Chandler's retirement from the ring, his demise as a fighter began several years before Sandoval beat him and the eye ailment reached a critical stage. In September 1981, Chandler was placed on six-months probation after being arrested for possession of a small amount of marijuana and cocaine. It didn't seem like a particularly big deal at the time, and certainly didn't appear to affect

his performances inside of the ring. The drug bust had occurred in June, a little more than a month before Chandler stopped Solis again in a rematch, taking out the Puerto Rican ex-champ in half as many rounds as it took to win the title. But what most assumed was occasional recreational use of controlled substances was rapidly becoming a serious problem. Today, Chandler is willing to admit that drugs played a major role in his fall from grace.

"I'd be a fool to try to downplay it," said Chandler. "It wasn't my only problem, but it was the majority of it. It was never a venture to make any money off of. Okay? I had a problem with the consumption of drugs. I had no problem with the sale of drugs. It was never on my mind to sell anybody any drugs. I was a user."

His use increased between March '82, when he knocked out local rival Johnny Carter in defense of the title, and October of the same year, when he stopped challenger Miguel Irarte in his next fight.

"It happened when I had that seven-month layoff between fights," Chandler said. "There was no fighting going on for me at that time, just partying. And when the fighting started up again, it started to affect my career, and it definitely affected my mind set. I wasn't as much into the art of boxing as I was before."

Still, for the most part, Chandler continued to perform extraordinarily well. He turned back the challenge of hard-hitting Gaby Canizales in March '83, winning a 15-round decision in impressive style. Then, following a non-title win over Hector Cortez in May, Chandler lost a 10-round split decision to Oscar Muniz in another non-title bout. It was an ugly fight that brought considerable criticism from many quarters, including the fans who turned against him when he clowned and taunted Muniz in a losing cause.

When they were rematched in December with the title on the line, Chandler said that he had taken Muniz lightly the first time and that he had learned his lesson. "I've got a whole lot to thank Oscar Muniz for; it woke me up," he told the media. "That loss brought me back to my senses."

Judging by the way he chopped up Muniz for a seventh-round TKO, Chandler had indeed learned the error of his ways, and at the time, few expected that it would be his last successful defense. But the end was rapidly approaching, accelerated by a combination of drugs, medical problems, and an inner-battle aggravated by both. He knew that his cataracts were progressing and would eventually kill his career, but he didn't know when, and it was eating him up inside.

"The doctor had told me in '82 that eventually I would have to have an operation," said Chandler. "He didn't how long I could go before I only had partial vision. But the test I took in '84 said that the cataracts had progressed, so I knew I wasn't going to be fighting much longer.

"I was a confident fighter all my career. When I stepped up to take the challenge, I was confident. I felt that I could win every fight I stepped into. But suddenly there was a feeling of not being sure. I felt that there was a crack in my armor. I wasn't the iron man I'd always been."

Taking solace in drugs obviously wasn't the answer, and although it eased the pain for a while, it also hastened the inevitable. But not all of the suffering was mental. Chandler injured his shoulder training for the Sandoval fight, ironically, while practicing the left hook of which he's still so proud.

"The Sandoval fight was on a Saturday," said Peltz. "I went down to Atlantic City on either Wednesday or Thursday. Jeff and Willie had been down there training for a while. I was in my room, and Willie [who died in '95] walked in and said, 'I've got bad news. Jeff can't fight. His left shoulder hurts so much, he can't even put his shirt on by himself.' We went to the doctor, and he gave Jeff a shot of cortisone, and then he could move his shoulder. Jeff was afraid he'd be stripped of the title, so we went ahead with the fight anyway. I didn't know at the time that he'd hurt it several weeks earlier. I don't think he won more than two rounds. They stopped it in the 15th round."

Like so many fighters, Chandler, who finished with a 33-2-2 (18) record, has struggled to find a place for himself in the world after boxing, and to a degree, he's still fighting that battle.

"That was the craziest situation I've ever been in," Chandler said of his almost instantaneous transformation from world champion to ex-boxer. "Being champion of the world was something I took great stock in. I had been setting myself up to be champion from the very first day I walked into the gymnasium. That was the itinerary at the very beginning. We were in the gym to train to become a world champion. It wasn't just to be a fighter. I wanted to be the best."

For a short span of time, that's exactly what he was—an aggressive, mercury-quick, resourceful boxer who punched in sharp combinations. But although he was a thinking fighter, Joltin' Jeff possessed the hard-edged grit that personifies the Philadelphia fighter, and when it came time to go toe-to-toe, he never backed down and seldom came away second best. Thankfully, some of those same qualities helped him keep going when the cheering stopped.

"I had three children, so I had a job I could get into," he said. "I had something to take my mind off of what was in the rearview mirror. I had something to consume those moments when there wasn't boxing.

"I've taken care of the dollars well, very well for a fighter. I lived off it. I bought a house. All the back bills were paid. We're talking about the year 2000, and we're still holding on to some of that. Regardless of what anyone might think or the look I might be giving, I'm still okay."

And the drugs?

"You're always recovering, but I have no problem with it at all," he claimed. "I feel good about that. I don't look to do it. People don't look to me to do it anymore."

On Sunday, June 11, Chandler stood on the podium during the induction ceremony, his two sons, Jeff Jr. and Julius, at his side, and basked in the glow of three standing ovations. "This is my proudest moment," he told the cheering crowd. For the person who has known him the longest, however, just the fact that he was alive and not behind bars was more than enough.

"As a teenager, I was coming up pretty rough," Chandler recalled. "I was gang warring in my high school days, and my mother once said that I would be dead or in jail before I'm 21. I've beat that already, 43 is more than twice 21. I've already whupped that, and it's not over yet." ■

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Mike Tyson

(Continued from page 42)

right now, but I'm not ready yet. I need more training. I am rusty. But he is no match for me when I am right. I have only fought 12 times in 10 years. I want to rip out his heart and feed it to him."

Condemnation of Tyson was swift.

"He's an out-of-control guy, inside and outside the ring," said former world featherweight champion Barry McGuigan, who worked the fight for Sky Television in Britain. "He has a complete contempt for authority." McGuigan's colleague, Jim Watt, former world lightweight titleholder, declared with passion: "What Tyson did and said was appalling. That man is not a sportsman. He's a devil."

Referee Coyle acknowledged the case for having had him disqualified—which he could also have been for attempting to break Frans Botha's arm in a first-round clinch in January 1999 and for punching Orlin Norris after the bell ending the first round last October in Las Vegas.

"I don't think Tyson should have been permitted to box after the ear-biting incident with Evander Holyfield. That should have been the end. But I'm convinced it should be finished now," Coyle said. "Apart from the fight, there were the comments he made afterwards, which were so out of order it was beyond belief."

Members of the Nevada commission expressed dismay over Tyson's actions.

"It is an embarrassment to the sport of boxing," said commissioner Luther Mack. "I am concerned about the referees and how they will be able to protect themselves. It is scary when you have someone like Mike Tyson continue to throw punches.

"What can one man do to protect himself against someone like Tyson? You don't have a weapon. You don't have a defense. If Tyson went after the referee, so much damage could be done before anybody could step in to assist. Our referees are very important to us. When Tyson reached around referee Coyle, it could have ended the referee. I think it makes the referee more able to

do his job if he is not thinking about getting killed."

It would seem that Tyson's psychological imbalance is badly affected by his having to be taken off the tranquilizing drug, Zoloft, leading up to a fight. The medication is there to keep his emotions in check. Without it, the monster inside him is let loose.

Back at the Hilton hotel, Tyson stormed into the lobby, screaming, "I'm normal," to the waiting throng, who are used to more competitive matches than Tyson-Savarese during the course of a normal Saturday night in Glasgow. When he returned in the early hours from a nightclub, he greeted fans requesting an autograph with the despicable response: "I'm Mike f___ing Tyson. Get the f___ out of my f___ing face."

Lewis, in training for his July 15 defense of the heavyweight championship against Botha, observed: "Tyson is a walking train wreck waiting to happen. He is not mentally stable.

"He doesn't intimidate me, but he frightens me in the sense I don't want to step in the ring with someone who wants to eat me, a person who could bite my nose off if I started to frustrate him, the way he bit Evander Holyfield's ear. I look at myself as a savior for the sport, getting rid of all the misfits. Tyson is the last one out there. Me beating him would put the record straight and finish him for good. I know I can beat him. People say he looked good against Savarese, but the guy had come out of retirement. He was *Savar-easy*. The only way he could ever beat me is if I stuck out my chin. That will never happen."

There are plenty of good judges who insist it could, that the animal in Tyson would overwhelm a man who shows signs of a deep conflict within, a man to whom the brutal imperatives of fighting are nowhere near as innate. Savagery can stir a range of reactions—revulsion, pity, curiosity, fear. In the makers and shakers of professional boxing, it inspires opportunism and the hallucinogenic aroma of fast bucks. While many can no longer justify Mike Tyson making a living from boxing, their voices are drowned out by the jingle of money. ■

Brian Doogan is* THE RING'S *European correspondent.

New Face

(Continued from page 18)

power. And no thanks, I want nothing of him today."

Thanks to his parents' background, Krajnc holds double citizenship, and chose to box for Slovenia in the World Amateur Championships in '95 and the European Amateur Championships in '96. But he failed to medal and missed qualifying for the Atlanta Olympics. With his Olympic hopes dashed, Krajnc signed on with Universum, a Hamburg, Germany-based promotional company whose star-studded roster already included WBC cruiserweight champion Juan Carlos Gomez, undefeated light heavyweight Dariusz Michalczewski, and Wladimir and Vitaly Klitschko.

Universum placed Krajnc with trainer Torsten Schmitz, and the 5'11½" Swede showed tremendous determination by choosing to live in a tiny cell-like room at the Universum training center for the next three years. Living, eating, and breathing boxing paid off, and by the end of '98 Krajnc had advanced considerably. He'd already beaten Gyorgi Miszcy, who had won a bronze medal at the Atlanta Games, French prospect Jean-Paul D'Alessandro, and American journeymen Leroy Owens and Anthony Ivory, and was ready to step up to better competition.

His big break came when Universum had a problem involving another of its fighters, Bert Schenk, who held the WBO middleweight title, which is lightly regarded in the United States but attracts considerable attention and money in Europe. Schenk was scheduled to defend against England's Jason "Method Man" Matthews in July '99, but was injured and forced to cancel the bout. Instead, Matthews was matched with fellow Briton Ryan Rhodes for the "interim title," and knocked him out in the second round.

The Schenk-Matthews fight was rescheduled for November, but 10 days before the fight, Schenk's Achilles tendon snapped and left the promotion in jeopardy. Promoter Klaus Peter Kohl and matchmaker Peter Hanraths scrambled to find a solution, and called Krajnc into the office.

"How would you like to fight for the WBO belt?" asked Kohl.

Krajnc swallowed twice, looked Kohl straight in the eyes, and answered, "I would, yes please."

Despite the fact that he was unbeaten in 21 pro bouts going in, Krajnc was given little chance, and British weekly *Boxing News* predicted that Matthews would "wear Kranjc down with his heavy punches for a stoppage win in about eight rounds." They were right about the round, but not about who would have his arm raised at the conclusion of the bout.

The fight, held in Luebeck, Germany, got off to a dynamic start. Matthews hurt the Swede with a right uppercut in the opening round and drove him backward with two more rights, but Krajnc fired back with a series of three left hooks, sending Matthews sprawling onto his back. The Englishman beat the count and roared out for the second, initiating another wild exchange. Both landed plenty of shots, but Krajnc's work was more consistent.

Krajnc also took the third, but Matthews rallied to outwork his opponent in the fourth and fifth, drilling the Swede with a heavy overhand right in the fifth. Krajnc took the blow well, and by the end of the round, Matthews' right eye was swelling. Matthews' eye grew progressively worse, and the quick-fisted Krajnc continued to punish his essentially one-eyed adversary until 1:45 of the eighth, when referee James Condon stopped the fight. Krajnc was ahead 68-64 on all three official scorecards after seven completed rounds.

Krajnc, who still lives part-time in his old apartment in Malmoe, was given a hero's welcome when he returned home. There was media hype unlike anything afforded a Swedish boxer since George Scott upset former IBF lightweight champion Rafael Ruelas in '95. Naturally, Krajnc and Swedish boxing fans want to see him fight in his homeland, but the ban is still in place.

"I want to defend my title in Malmoe or Stockholm, and thus I want this ridiculous law thrown out," said Krajnc. "It's outlived itself and it's high time to get rid of it."

Most of the Swedish media agree with Krajnc, as do some politicians. Unfortunately for the fighter, other politicians do

(Continued on page 62)

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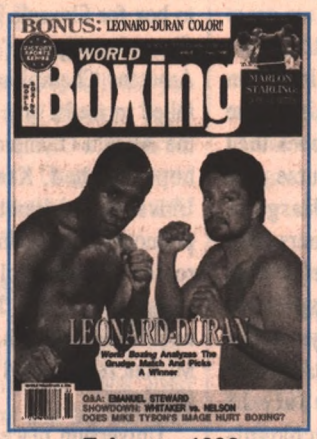

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New Face

(Continued from page 59)

not. Things may change, but the big question is whether it will happen soon enough to benefit Krajnc.

In his first fight of 2000, Krajnc was back in Luebeck, where he knocked out Wisconsin clubfighter Jonathan Corn, who wasn't as good as his 29-2-1 (12) record going in seemed to indicate. Still, the blows that put him away in the second round were impressive. The American was counted out while crawling on the canvas, trying to escape under the bottom rope.

"I've never been knocked out before," Corn explained. "I got sick thoughts in my mind and just tried to get out of there, not really knowing what I was doing."

The bizarre ending notwithstanding, it was a great showcase for Krajnc's punching power.

"I want to send a message to Bernard Hopkins, William Joppy, and Keith Holmes," said Krajnc in reference to the three Americans who hold the IBF, WBA, and WBC belts, respectively. "You may be bigger names today than me, but you don't scare me none, and I hit just as hard, if not harder than any of you."

Brave words to be sure, and with pro boxing still illegal in Sweden, Krajnc will probably have to cross the Atlantic Ocean to back them up. ■

Olof Johansson is a boxing journalist based in Horred, Sweden.

Acelino Freitas

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Antonio Barrera a week after Popo's fight with Nelson. (He was flattened in the first round, however.)

At 5'5", Freitas is the shortest of the Big Four 130-pounders. There remains speculation that he also is having the biggest problem with weight, fueled by the fact that he needed four tries to make the limit before the Nelson fight. Ricardo Maldonado Sr., Freitas' Los Angeles-based manager, blamed the weight issue on a faulty trial scale, although Freitas worked out on fight week wearing plastic clothing, his body smeared in Albolene.

"This is the weight I want to be, and this is where I will stay," Freitas said.

If Freitas can lure 52,000 to a fight with Anthony Martinez, then his drawing power in Brazil is not in question. That nation hasn't had a major title claimant since Miguel De Oliviera held the WBC super welterweight title in 1975, and is anxious to follow Freitas' ascent.

How Freitas will do with the powerful American audience remains to be seen, but there's always an attraction for a fighter with a 100 percent knockout rate, whose fights average 2.76 rounds, and who has knocked out 17 of 26 opponents in the first or second round.

While Freitas was not anxious to call out the champions in his own weight division, he was quick to voice his desire for a fight with featherweight ruler "Prince" Naseem Hamed.

"That's the next goal," Freitas said. "I'm sending a message to Naseem Hamed. Don't run. I want you next time."

Well, everyone from 122 to 130 pounds wants Hamed. Pending further announcement from the Prince himself, Freitas will find it easier getting his 130-pound rivals in the ring for a potentially riveting unification series. His manager, in fact, would like to take a shot at the biggest name in the division.

"Acelino is a great fighter, an exciting fighter, and he loves to fight," Maldonado said. "Casamayor's new, and people don't know him yet. Same thing with Corrales. But Mayweather, he's a bigger name. We want that fight." ■

David Mayo covers boxing for the Grand Rapids Press and is an occasional contributor to this magazine.

Fred Norwood

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Fighting on enemy turf undoubtedly will make Norwood mentally stronger in adverse situations, and that's precisely why he may have what it takes to make a serious run at Hamed.

Consider that in only his 16th professional fight, Norwood was flown to Italy as an "opponent" for Bungu when the South African still was highly regarded. Norwood showed a world-class pedigree even at that early stage, outfoxing Bungu to pull out an eight-round decision. Or that when Norwood first won the title from Antonio Cermeno, who had lost just once since '93, he had just 10 days to prepare.

That's not good enough for Top Rank. The reward is no longer worth the headache.

"He has a chip on his shoulder, but that's just coming from his background of being on the street," said Adams. "The people that promote him fail to stand up for him."

Norwood was no stranger to trouble growing up. He was kicked out of the house by his mother when he was 17 and lived on the street until he was taken in by a couple who owned a boxing gym. He put his energy into something positive and compiled an impressive amateur record of 86-4, but using his rugged formative years as an excuse for behaving like an ingrate is unacceptable for a 30-year-old man.

Former manager Cameron Dunkin, who severed ties with Norwood about eight months ago, only would say that he is glad his volatile relationship with the fighter is over. Some close to the situation say Norwood's erratic and sometimes violent behavior was to blame. Others, such as Risman, chalk it up as nonsense and another attempt to soil Norwood's reputation and damage his career.

Top Rank matchmaker Bruce Trampler has had his hands full trying to arrange dates for Norwood, but he has become used to the in-and-out-of-jail routine.

"We know when he's going to go back in, which is pretty regularly," Trampler said. "I think Freddie is the best featherweight in the world, but he has been doing this for years now. It's nothing new."

Norwood has had a litany of charges filed and either dropped or pleaded down in recent years, and so far has escaped prolonged jail time. When he was returned to Las Vegas by authorities recently, he had a kidnapping charge reduced to a gross misdemeanor that required a charitable donation and some counseling, according to Risman. In Fort Worth, Texas, where Norwood once was managed by native and two-division former champion Donald Curry, Norwood was charged with assault in 1992. That was later dismissed, said Neely Bridge, Tarrant County assistant district attorney.

Provided Norwood ducks another legal

haymaker in California, maybe he can focus on business and realize his potential before time expires. Enough recognition has passed him by, and while winning may be the bottom line, the way he wins sometimes leaves a bad taste in people's mouths.

Adams believes that all will change if his charge gets a shot at Hamed. A win would erase all of the speculation and doubt that has surrounded Norwood since he rose to prominence. He reportedly has lax training habits and would much rather spend his time enjoying the high life.

Not true, said Adams.

"You can't ask for any more out of him," the trainer insisted. "Freddie trains hard as hell. He comes into the gym and there ain't no playing. He's always been in shape for his fights. You've never seen him out of condition."

The scales begged to differ when Norwood had to relinquish the WBA belt at the weigh-in when he failed to make the division limit prior to knocking out Koji Matsumoto in '98. He regained the belt less than a year later with his second pasting of Cermeno, but he still seems content just to get by.

Short of Hamed, there aren't any other million-dollar showdowns at or near 126 pounds. It may not be long before Norwood's 5'5" frame expands and forces him to campaign at junior lightweight.

"The boxing writers and the fans know that the true exciting fight at featherweight is Prince Naseem versus Freddie Norwood," said Risman. "That's a fight that could rival the intensity of Barrera-Morales or Mosley-De La Hoya. I think the fight can happen by year's end. If it doesn't, Freddie would look forward to move up in weight to fight Floyd Mayweather."

That's yet another fight that looks good on paper, but don't count on it happening anytime soon. There's no question that Norwood deserves to be mentioned among today's best featherweights, but in order to remain there, he must exercise the same discipline outside the ring that has kept him undefeated inside of it. If not, he will have earned his stripes in more ways than one. ■

Johnnie Whitehead is an assistant sports editor with the Orlando Sentinel and a regular contributor to this magazine.

Vito Antuofermo

(Continued from page 47)

contact him. They called him back two months later to offer him a part in the movie, and Antuofermo's acting career was underway.

"In *Godfather III*, that was me, right off the street." said Antuofermo. "I had no experience before that. I had to learn to speak clearly. At the time, they couldn't understand what I was saying. You could understand me in a conversation fine, but it didn't translate well on film. You have to remember that English is my second language. I didn't speak English at all when I came here. I learned English in the boxing gyms, which, let's face it, isn't the best place to learn a language."

Once he had a taste of Hollywood, Antuofermo found a new passion. To further his career, he received help from one of the biggest stars in show business.

"When I was filming *The Godfather III*, I got close with Al Pacino," said Antuofermo. "He liked fighters, so we hung out a few times. He told me to go to acting school and helped me get in Lee Strasberg's school. His wife, Ann Strasberg, worked with me for three months. And then I took speech lessons, and that helped."

While his roles in *The Godfather III*, *Goodfellas*, and *The Sopranos* have gotten him the most recognition, he's appeared in two off-Broadway plays, *Tony And Tina's Wedding* and *Revenge Of The Mob*, and several smaller budget films.

"I was in this film, *New York Cop*," said Antuofermo. "It wasn't a big film. But, oh, I got shot so many times."

He found acting on the stage the most similar to boxing because of the live audience. And—like in the ring—no one can call "Cut" or "Time out."

"Getting experience on stage is great," said Antuofermo. "The first play, *Tony And Tina's Wedding*, was an audience participation play. I was the father of the groom and I played a real sleazeball. But there's no script. Every night you improvise. You interact with the people and come up with something. You just go with it. I enjoyed it."

Although Antuofermo has been cast in several mafia roles, he is careful to point out that it hardly represents his real life. In 1992, a mob informant testified that Antuofermo took a dive. At the time, Antuofermo scoffed at the notion, saying, "Every fight I lost, I lost because of cuts. I have the scars to prove it."

Antuofermo says he is often the victim of Italian stereotypes.

"I was at a benefit once for the South Queens Boy Club, and John Gotti was there," said Antuofermo. "We live in the same neighborhood, but we had never met. So I went over and introduced myself. Someone took a picture of us and it ended up on page three of the *New York Post*. Those kind of stereotypes bother me. My name ends in a vowel and I'm a fighter, so everyone immediately thinks, *He's mobbed up*. If I was, I wouldn't have to go to work every day."

His job on the waterfront can be grueling, but four times a week he rises at 5 a.m. to work out with weights before starting his 8 a.m. shift at the docks. He also works occasionally as a bodyguard for Donald Trump.

Acting, though, is Antuofermo's current passion. He's determined—as he was in the ring—to make it in Hollywood. He's just waiting for someone to make him an offer he can't refuse. ■

Robert Cassidy is a former associate editor of this magazine.

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Aug. 1990: Meldrick Taylor: Brilliance In Defeat. Color Pinup: Buster Douglas. Interview: Teddy Atlas. Also: Buddy McGirt, Dokes-Ruddock, Simon Brown.

Sept. 1990: KO Interview-Buster Douglas. Color Pinup: Macho Camacho. Also: Thomas Hearns, Nigel Benn, Greg Haugen, Boxing Hall of Fame.

Oct. 1990: Send In The Clown: Is Jorge Paez A Phenom Or A Fraud? Color Pinup: Paul Banke. Interview: Tony Lopez. Also: Chavez-Taylor II, Jesse Benavides.

Nov. 1990: The Comeback Of Mike Tyson: A Crooked Course Straight To The Top. Color Pinup: Tony Lopez. Interview: Don Dunphy. Also: Davis-Breland, Riddick Bowe, federal commission.

Dec. 1990: The Heart Of The Matter: Who Will Survive The Holyfield-Douglas War? Color Pinup: Terry Norris. Interview: Virgil Hill. Also: Michael Carbajal, Ruelas Brothers, Best Fighter Poll.

Jan. 1991: Macho Ado About Nothing? Why Hector Camacho Wants To Be Believed. Color Pinup: Meldrick Taylor. Interview: Irving Rudd. Also: Sugar Ray Leonard, Orlando Canizales, Vinny Pazienza.

Feb. 1991: 10 Fighters To Fear: Boxing's Most Destructive Hitters. Color Pinup: Razor Ruddock. Interview: Ray Mercer. Also: Roberto Duran, Saoul Mamby, Mills Lane, Sugar Ray Robinson.

May 1991: Ruddock Eyes The Big Upset Of Tyson. Color Pinup: Luisito Espinosa. Interview: Jeff Fenech. Also: Virgil Hill, Pernell Whitaker, Alex Ramos, Simon Brown, Buddy McGirt.

June 1991: Exclusive KO Interview: Evander Holyfield. Color Pinup: Raul Perez. Also: Norris-Leonard, Charles Williams, champs of 1971 vs. 1991, Chavez.

July 1991: Riddick Bowe: Is He Destined To Be Heavyweight Champ? Color Pinup: Michael Carbajal. Interview: Buddy McGirt. Also: Bobby Czyz, Buster Douglas, Mark Breland.

Aug. 1991: Desert Storm II: Will The Tyson-Ruddock Rematch Be Different? Color Pinup: Loreto Garza. Interview: Michael Carbajal. Also: Brown-Blocker, Fenech-Nelson preview, Harold Brazier, Yuh-Carbajal.

Sept. 1991: Remember Me? I Won The Fight! What "The Real Deal" Still Has To Deal With. Color Pinup: Ray Mercer. Interview: Eddie Futch. Also: Larry Holmes, southpaw heavyweights, Toney-Nunn, Brown-Taylor.

Oct. 1991: Thomas Hearns Works Another Miracle! Now There Are More Hills Left To Climb. Color Pinup: Humberto Gonzalez. Interview: Mike McCallum. Also: Norris-Curry, Richard Steele, Troy Dorsey.

Nov. 1991: Mike Tyson-The Only Heavyweight That Matters. Color Pinup: Thomas Hearns. Interview: Troy Dorsey. Also: Fenech-Nelson, James Toney, lost art of bodypunching.

Dec. 1991: Tyson vs. Holyfield-The Experts Analyze The Elements That Will Decide The Fight. Color Pinup: Joey Gamache. Also: Michael Moorer, Pernell Whitaker, Greg Richardson, Robert Quiroga.

Jan. 1992: The Tyson-Holyfield Showdown: An Exclusive Forecast By George Foreman. Color Pinup: Myung Woo Yuh. Also: Fenech-Nelson, TV announcers, boxing's toughest men, Toney-McCallum.

March 1992: KO Interview Mike Tyson: An In-Depth, Toe-To-Toe Talk With Boxing's Biggest Star. Color Pinup: Michael Moorer. Also: Thomas Hearns, Tracy Patterson, Larry Holmes, best fighter poll.

May 1992: Division-By-Division Faceoffs: The Best Of '92 vs. The Best Of '67. Color Pinup: James Warring. Interview: Hector Camacho. Also: Tommy Morrison, Bert Cooper, Gianfranco Rosi.

June 1992: If Not Tyson Or Holyfield, Then Who? Bowe? Moorer? Ruddock? Lewis? Mercer? Color Pinup: James Toney. Interview: Shelly Finkel. Also: Scotty Olson, overrated and underrated fighters, Orlin Norris, Whitaker-Pineda.

July 1992: The Title Reign of Evander Holyfield: A Reason To Hide ... Or A Reason For Pride? Color Pinup: Buddy McGirt. Interview: Julian Jackson. Also: Kelley-Dorsey, Nelson-Fenech, Kennedy McKinney.

Aug. 1992: Bowe Knows The Big Fight: The Top Contender Analyzes Holmes-Holyfield. Color Pinup: Julian Jackson. Interview: Michael Spinks. Also: Thomas Hearns, Blue Horizon, fighting fear, Toney-Barkley, Greg Haugen.

Sept. 1992: Can Tommy Morrison Punch Out The Theory ... White Men Can't Fight. Color Pinup: Welcome Ncita. Interview: Ken Norton. Also: Reggie Johnson, Jimmy Paul, McGirt-Blocker, Ali-Shavers.

Oct. 1992: The Olympics: Golden Memories ... And Golden Futures? Color Pinup: Reggie Johnson. Interview: Bobby Czyz. Also: Genaro Hernandez, Terry Norris.

Nov. 1992: Foreman vs. Holmes: The Fight Evander Holyfield Should Have Prevented. Color Pinup: Iran Barkley. Interview: Joey Gamache. Also: Hector Camacho, Tracy Patterson, Rudy Zavala.

Dec. 1992: The Final Four: Ruddock vs. Lewis, Holyfield vs. Bowe. Color Pinup: Genaro Hernandez. Interview: Lennox Lewis. Also: Whitaker-Pineda, Bowe-Coetzer, Alex Stewart, Gamache-Lopez.

Jan. 1993: Holyfield vs. Bowe: Who Will Win and Why. Color Pinup: Al Cole. Interview: Vinny Pazienza. Also: James Toney, Terrence Alli, Maurice Blocker.

March 1993: Not Just Another English Muffin: Lennox Lewis Powers His Way Toward The Title. Color Pinup: Leeonzer Barber. Interview: Emanuel Steward. Also: Reggie Johnson, Lopez-Gamache, USA Network.

May 1993: Recapping The Future: Julio Cesar Chavez' Road To 100-0. Color Pinup: Terry Norris. Interview: Junior Jones. Also: Buddy McGirt, Riddick Bowe, Raul Marquez.

Dec. 1993: The KO Feud Rages On: "I Will Torture You!" Says Riddick Bowe To Lennox Lewis. Color Pinup: Kennedy McKinney. Also: Mississippi boxing, George Foreman, Yori Boy Campas , Carbajal-Kim, Morrison-Moorer.

July 1994: The Upset Epidemic! Carbajal's Conqueror: Chiquita Gonzalez. Color Pinup: Junior Jones. Interview:

Rafael Ruelas. Also: Jake Rodriguez, Czyz-Hearns preview, Randall-Chavez II preview.

June 1995: The Tug-Of-War Over Mike Tyson. Color Pinup: Wilfredo Vasquez. Interview: Oliver McCall. Plus: Alejandro Gonzalez, Alexis Arguello, Kostya Tszyu.

March 1996: Whether He Fights Or Not ... Tyson Is Hot! Hot!! Hot!!! Color Pinup: Marco Antonio Barrera. Interview: Jose Sulaiman. Plus: Reggie Tuur, heavyweight prospects, champion's edge.

June 1996: Destined For The Hall Of Fame: Who's In, Who's Out. Color Pinup: Wayne McCullough. Interview: Cedric Kushner. Plus: Danny Romero, Mark Breland, Dynamite Dozen—the next 12.

July 1996: Awesome Again! Tyson Destroys Bruno. Color Pinup: Tyson-Bruno. Interview: Christy Martin. Plus: Chavez-De La Hoya preview, Derrick Gainer, '96 Hall of Fame inductees.

Sept. 1996: Tyson vs. Seldon. Don't Bet On This Fight Until You've Read This Story! Color Pinup: Arturo Gatti. Interview: Butterbean. Plus: Dana Rosenblatt, '92 Olympians, McGuigan-Pedroza.

Nov. 1996 (Special 88-Page Edition): The *KO* 100. Color Pinup: Terry Norris. Interview: Bob Arum. Plus: Roy Jones, Roberto Duran, Joe Cortez.

Dec. 1996: Andrew Golota—Taking The Low Road to Stardom. Color Pinup: Mark Johnson. Interview: Rock Newman. Plus: De La Hoya-Gonzalez, Chuck Bodak, bizarre endings, Chavez-Rosario.

Winter 1996: This Is War! Holyfield-Tyson Will Be Explosive ... And Short. Color Pinup: Roy Jones. Interview: Bernard Hopkins. Plus: Riddick Bowe, David Reid, Holyfield-Qawi.

Jan. 1997 (Special 88-Page Edition): Bowe-Golota II: Hatred And Vengeance ... It's A Beautiful Thing! Color Pinup: Johnny Tapia. Interview: Lou Duva. Plus: Mouse Strauss, heavyweight rematches, Azumah Nelson.

Feb. 1997: KO's 1997 Wish List. Color Pinup: Ike Quartey. Interview: Naseem Hamed. Plus: David Tua, Felix Trinidad, Adolpho Washington, Bobby Czyz.

March 1997: Holyfield's Trainer Tells All! An Inside Look At The Upset Of The Year. Color Pinup: Vinny Pazienza. Interview: Sugar Ray Leonard. Plus: George Foreman, Lupe Pintor, boxing bill, Floyd Mayweather Jr.

Aug. 1997: Oscar Reaches ... But Can't Grasp The Stars. Color Pinup: Nate Miller. Interview: Hector Camacho. Plus: Norris-Trinidad preview, Hall of Fame, Angel Manfredy.

Sept. 1997: A Legitimate Grudge Match! Why Romero-Tapia Could Be The Fight Of The Year. Color Pinup: Oscar De La Hoya. Interview: David Tua. Plus: Ike Quartey, George Foreman, top promoters.

Nov. 1997: Filling In The Missing Pieces: What "The Bite" Means To Boxing. Color Pinup: Christy Martin. Interview: Jim Lampley. Plus: Vince Phillips, British prospects, Iran Barkley.

Dec. 1997: Johnny Tapia Outshines Danny Romero: The Defining Moment In A "Crazy Life." Color Pinup: Genaro Hernandez. Interview: Frans Botha. Plus: Lewis-Akiwande, Don King, Charles Brewer.

Holiday 1997 (Special 88-Page Edition): Holyfield-Moorer II: Can Evander Avenge His Ugliest Defeat? Color Pinup: Vince Phillips. Interview: Mills Lane. Plus: Roy Jones, Baby Jake Matlala, Boxing 2000.

Jan. 1998: De La Hoya Humbles The Macho Man: "Oscar's The Best I've Ever Fought." Color Pinup: William Guthrie. Interview: Mark Johnson. Plus: Johnny Tapia, Pinklon Thomas, defense.

Feb. 1998: Is Lennox Lewis The World's Best Heavyweight? Color Pinup: Charles Brewer. Interview: Marc Ratner. Plus: Otis Grant, Arturo Gatti.

March 1998: Evander Holyfield: For The Real Deal, Lewis Is No Big Deal. Color Pinup: Lou Del Valle. Interview: Lennox Lewis. Plus: David Izon, Meldrick Taylor, rapid weight loss.

May 1998: Living Up To The Hype: Sometimes They Do ... Sometimes They Don't. Color Pinup: David Reid. Interview: Best Of ... (Part III). Plus: Naseem Hamed, Marty Denkin, women's boxing.

June 1998: Lewis vs. Holyfield: Why The Fight Of The Year Isn't Going To Happen. Color Pinup: Evander Holyfield. Interview: Eddie Futch. Plus: Hector Lizarraga, pain, Head-To-Head review.

Aug. 1998: Lewis Bombs Out Briggs: Would The WBC Champ Do This To Holyfield? Color Pinup: Keith Mullings. Interview: Shane Mosley. Plus: Pernell Whitaker, Marco Antonio Barrera, Roberto Garcia.

Sept. 1998: Can Mike Tyson Make A Successful Comeback? Sugar Ray Leonard Has The Answer. Color Pinup: Michael Grant. Interview: Brad Jacobs. Plus: Naseem Hamed, Wayne McCullough, Kirk Johnson.

Oct. 1998: The Ultimate Fantasy Card. Color Pinup: Oscar De La Hoya. Interview: Roy Jones. Plus: Brendan Ingle, NYPD boxing, prospect blueprint.

Nov. 1998 The *KO* 100. Color Pinup: Reggie Johnson. Interview: Tim Austin. Plus: Cesar Bazan, Spencer Oliver, Bobby Czyz.

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Jan. 2000: Fool's Gold? Trinidad May Have Tarnished Oscar's Image Forever! Color Pinup: Paulie Ayala. Interview: Tony Ayala Jr. Plus: David Reid, Johnny Nelson.

Feb. 2000: Breakout 2000: Who's Going To Lead The Way In Y2K? Color Pinup: Roy Jones. Interview: Bob Arum. Plus: Shane Mosley, Wise-Chavez, Iran Barkley.

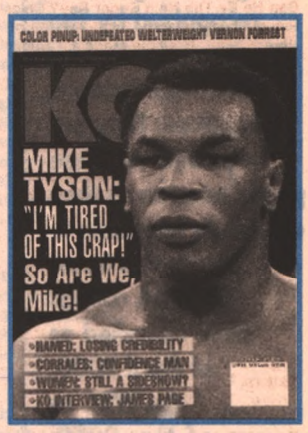
March 2000: Mike Tyson: "I'm Tired Of This Crap!" So Are We, Mike! Color Pinup: Vernon Forrest. Interview: James Page. Plus: Erik Morales & Naseem Hamed, Diego Corrales, women's boxing.

May 2000: Michael Grant vs. Lennox Lewis—25 Insiders Pick The Winner. Color Pinup: Paul Spadafora. Interview: Dan Goossen. Plus: Floyd Mayweather, Johnny Tapia, southpaws.

June 2000: Lewis vs. Grant: Who Will Win ... And Why. Color Pinup: Vitaly Klitschko. Interview: Sharmba Mitchell. Plus: Shane Mosley, David Izon, 2000 Hall of Fame.

July 2000: Today's Fighters, Tomorrow's Hall Of Famers. Color Pinup: Keith Holmes. Interview: Shane Mosley. Plus: Zab Judah, Morales-Barrera, Wayne Braithwaite.

August 2000: Mosley Prepares For Oscar: "It Will Be Like The First Round Of Hagler-Hearns. Color Pinup: Erik Morales. Interview: Chris Byrd. Plus: Vargas-Quartey, Thomas Hearns, Felix Trinidad, common sense vs. cowardice.



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WORLDWIDE RATINGS

The ratings of the three major governing bodies recognized by The Ring are supplied by the organizations themselves. They are updated on these pages as soon as they are made available to us. In this issue, the WBA ratings were complied as of April 2000, the WBC as of June 2000, and the IBF as of March 2000.

HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Lennox Lewis (GB)	C	C	C
David Tua (NZ)	1	5	1
Mike Tyson (USA)	2	4	–
Wladimir Klitchko (UKR)	3	3	12
Larry Donald (USA)	4	7	4
Kirk Johnson (CAN)	5	–	–
Oleg Maskaev (UKR)	6	6	10
Michael Grant (USA)	7	12	2
Henry Akinwande (GB)	8	9	9
Francois Botha (SA)	9	–	–
Oliver McCall (USA)	10	–	–
John Ruiz (USA)	–	1	5
Evander Holyfield (USA)	–	2	3
Kirk Johnson (CAN)	–	8	8
David Izon (NIG)	23	10	11
Danell Nicholson (USA)	–	–	6
Chris Byrd (USA)	–	–	7

CRUISERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Juan Carlos Gomez (CUBA)	C	–	–
Fabrice Tiozzo (FRA)	–	C	–
Vassiliy Jirov (KAZ)	–	–	C
James Toney (USA)	1	2	5
Marcelo Dominguez (ARG)	2	4	6
Wayne Braithwaite (GUY)	3	–	12
Alex Gonzalez (PR)	4	10	–
Torsten May (GER)	5	9	2
Lou Del Valle (USA)	6	–	–
Carl Thompson (GB)	7	12	10
Louis Azille (DR)	8	–	–
Alexander Gurov (UKR)	9	–	–
Arthur Williams (USA)	10	7	3
Virgil Hill (USA)	–	1	7
Alexander Gurov (UKR)	–	3	–
Imamu Mayfield (USA)	12	5	9
Saul Montana (MEX)	–	6	8
Valery Vikhor (LAT)	–	8	–
Alex Gonzales (USA)	–	–	1
Andre Purlette (GUY)	–	–	4

LT. HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Roy Jones (USA)	C	C	C
Michael Nunn (USA)	1	9	–
Clinton Woods (GB)	2	10	7
Eric Harding (USA)	3	5	2
Reggie Johnson (USA)	4	8	6
Yawe Davis (ITA)	5	–	–
Antonio Tarver (USA)	6	–	1
David Telesco (USA)	7	6	9
Greg Wright (USA)	8	–	–
Thomas Ulrich (GER)	9	–	–
Glenn Kelly (AUSTRL)	10	7	3
Richard Hall (USA)	15	1	–
Lou Del Valle (USA)	–	2	12
Frank Liles (USA)	–	3	–
Derrick Harmon (USA)	11	4	–
Billy Lewis (USA)	–	11	4
Thomas Tate (USA)	–	–	5
Jimmy Crawford (USA)	–	–	8
Lincoln Carter (USA)	13	–	10

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Glenn Catley (GB)	C	8	–
Bruno Girard (FRA)	–	C	5
Sven Ottke (GER)	–	–	C
Eric Lucas (CAN)	1	–	–
Markus Beyer (GER)	2	–	–
Mario Velt (GER)	3	3	8
Richie Woodhall (GB)	4	–	–
Omar Sheika (USA)	5	–	7
Charles Brewer (USA)	6	7	1
David Starie (GB)	7	11	–
Andrei Shkalikov (RUS)	8	1	–
Dana Rosenblatt (USA)	9	2	–
Stephane Ouellet (CAN)	10	–	–
Byron Mitchell (USA)	13	4	–
Manuel Siacca (PR)	–	5	–
Mike Makata (NZ)	–	6	–
Fredric Alvarez (SWE)	18	9	9
Mads Larsen (DEN)	11	10	–
James Butler (USA)	27	–	2
Syd Vanderpool (CAN)	–	–	3
Guillermo Jones (PAN)	–	–	4
Tocker Pudwill (USA)	–	–	6
Guy Waters (AUSTRL)	12	–	10

MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Keith Holmes (USA)	C	–	–
William Joppy (USA)	–	C	–
Bernard Hopkins (USA)	–	–	C
Erland Betare (FRA)	1	–	–
David Reid (USA)	2	–	–
Hassine Cherifi (FRA)	3	6	6
Howard Eastman (GB)	4	2	7
Robert McCracken (GB)	5	–	–
Ali Ennebati (FRA)	6	–	8
Kevin Palmer (USA)	7	–	–
Davide Ciarlante (ITA)	8	–	–
Davey Hilton (CAN)	9	10	4
Antwun Echols (USA)	10	7	–
Rito Ruvalcaba (MEX)	–	1	9
Guillermo Jones (PAN)	12	3	–
Julio Cesar Green (DR)	–	4	–
Ramon Moyano (ARG)	–	5	–
Darren Obah (AUSTRL)	–	8	–
Johnson Tshuma (ZIM)	16	9	–
Vacant	–	–	1
Antwun Echols (USA)	–	–	2
Brian Barbosa (USA)	13	–	3
Dana Rosenblatt (USA)	–	–	5
Carl Daniels (USA)	–	–	10

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Francisco Castillejo (SPA)	C	–	–
Felix Trinidad (PR)	–	C	–
Fernando Vargas (USA)	–	–	C
Tony Marshall (USA)	1	–	–
Roman Karmazin (RUS)	2	7	8
Tony Badea (ROM)	3	–	–
Alfred Ankamah (GHA)	4	–	–
Quirino Garcia (MEX)	5	–	–
Kevin Kelly (USA)	6	8	–
Carl Daniels (USA)	7	5	–
Winky Wright (USA)	8	4	3
Akira Ohigashi (JAP)	9	12	–
Bronco McKart (USA)	10	–	4
Mamadou Thiam (FRA)	–	1	–
David Reid (USA)	–	2	–
Jose Flores (MEX)	15	3	–
Ike Quartey (GHA)	–	6	6
Julio Cesar Vazquez (ARG)	–	9	–
Ricardo Mayorga (NIC)	25	10	–
Ross Thompson (USA)	26	–	1
Paul Vaden (USA)	19	–	2
Emmett Linton (USA)	–	11	5
Pat Coleman (USA)	–	–	7
Marshall Simpson (GUY)	–	–	9
Evans Ashira (DEN)	–	–	10

WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Oscar De La Hoya (USA)	C	–	–
James Page (USA)	–	C	–
Vacant	–	–	C
Shane Mosley (USA)	1	2	2
Shannan Taylor (AUSTRL)	2	7	5
Ike Quartey (GHA)	3	–	–
Miguel Angel Gonzalez (MEX)	4	–	–
Vernon Forrest (USA)	5	8	3
Alessandro Duran (ITA)	6	11	–
Derrell Coley (USA)	7	–	–
Jose Luis Cruz (MEX)	8	–	–
Kofi Jantuah (GHA)	9	–	–
Nicolas Cervera (COL)	10	–	–
Andrew Lewis (GUY)	24	1	10
Michael Trabant (GERE)	26	3	–
Arturo Gatti (USA)	–	4	–
Thomas Damgaard (DEN)	12	5	–
Oba Carr (USA)	14	6	4
Carlos Baldomir (ARG)	11	9	–
Frank Olsen (DEN)	15	10	6
Raul Frank (USA)	–	–	1
Andrew Murray (USA)	–	–	7
Sam Garr (USA)	22	–	8
Scott Dixon (GB)	–	–	9

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Kostya Tszyu (AUSTRL)	C	–	–
Sharmba Mitchell (USA)	–	C	–
Zab Judah (USA)	–	–	C
Julio Cesar Chavez (MEX)	1	–	–
Oktay Urkal (TUR)	2	4	6
Diobelis Hurtado (CUB)	3	3	–
Arturo Gatti (CAN)	4	–	–
Gianluca Branco (ITA)	5	–	–

Ricky Quiles (USA)	6	–	–
Mikhail Krivolapov (RUS)	7	–	–
Ahmed Santos (USA)	8	–	–
Vince Phillips (USA)	9	–	–
Teddy Reid (USA)	10	–	10
Hector Camacho Jr (PR)	–	1	5
Miguel Angel Gonzalez (MEX)	–	2	–
Fred Pendleton (USA)	–	5	–
Khalid Rahilou (FRA)	–	6	–
Antonio Diaz (USA)	15	7	–
Elio Ortiz (VEN)	–	8	–
Demetrio Ceballos (PAN)	–	9	–
Giuseppi Laury (ITA)	–	10	–
Vacant	–	–	1
Vacant	–	–	2
Allan Vester (DEN)	17	–	3
Cesar Leiva (ARG)	–	–	4
Jason Rowland (GB)	–	–	7
Gabriel Mapuoka (FRA)	12	–	8
Jan Bergman (SA)	–	–	9

LIGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Steve Johnston (USA)	C	–	–
Gilbert Serrano (VEN)	–	C	–
Paul Spadafora (USA)	–	–	C
Lawrence Ngobeni (SA)	1	–	–
Cesar Bazan (MEX)	2	–	4
Lovemore Ndou (SA)	3	–	6
Rick Yoshimura (JAP)	4	4	–
Hector Camacho Jr (USA)	5	–	–
Billy Schwer (GB)	6	–	–
Julien Lorcy (FRA)	7	2	5
James Leija (USA)	8	–	8
Bruno Wartelle (FRA)	9	–	–
Alberto Sicurella (ARG)	10	3	–
Vacant	–	1	–
Oscar Garcia Cano (SPA)	12	5	–
Stefano Zoff (ITA)	–	6	–
Jean-Baptiste Mendy (FRA)	16	7	–
Raul Balbi (ARG)	–	8	–
Edson Xuxa Nascimento (BRA)	26	9	–
Takanori Hatakeyama (JAP)	–	10	–
Billy Irwin (CAN)	18	–	1
Joel Perez (USA)	–	–	2
Ivan Robinson (USA)	–	–	3
Wilfrido Ruiz (USA)	–	–	7
Angel Manfredy (USA)	–	–	9
Mike Griffith (USA)	–	–	10

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Floyd Mayweather (USA)	C	–	–
Jongkwon Baek (KOR)	11	C	–
Diego Corrales (USA)	–	–	C
Jesus Chavez (USA)	1	–	5
Sirimongkol Singmanassuk (THAI)	2	–	–
Kengo Nagashima (JAP)	3	–	–
Boris Sinitsin (RUS)	4	7	–
Tiger Ari (PHIL)	5	–	–
Goyo Vargas (MEX)	6	–	–
Carlos Hernandez (EL SALV)	7	–	–
Alejandro Gonzalez (MEX)	8	–	–
Dennis Holbaek (DEN)	9	–	–
Ben Tackie (GHA)	10	–	–
Joel Casamayor (CUB)	–	1	–
Lakva Sim (MON)	–	2	–
Yodsanan Nanthachai (THAI)	–	3	–
Yong Soo Choi (KOR)	–	4	–
Ernesto Zepeda (MEX)	30	5	–
Tontcho Tontchev (BUL)	14	6	–
Luis Navarro (USA)	25	8	10
Wilfredo Vazquez (PR)	26	9	–
Derrick Gainer (USA)	–	10	4
Vacant	–	–	1
Vacant	–	–	2
Robbie Peden (AUSTRL)	13	–	3
Carlos Hernandez (USA)	–	–	6
Ernesto Zepeda (MEX)	–	–	7
Santos Rebolledo (VEN)	–	–	8
Robert Garcia (USA)	16	11	9

FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Guty Espadas (MEX)	C	–	–
Fred Norwood (USA)	–	C	–
Paul Ingle (GB)	–	–	C
Injin Chi (KOR)	1	–	–
Tony Wehbee (AUS)	2	–	10
Istvan Kovacs (HUN)	3	6	–
Augie Sanchez (USA)	4	–	7
Luisito Espinosa (PHIL)	5	–	–
Raul Perez (MEX)	6	–	–
Kevin Kelley (USA)	7	10	12
Juan Carlos Ramirez (MEX)	8	–	–
Philip Ndou (SA)	9	4	–
Pablo Chacon (ARG)	10	1	3
Nana Konadu (GHA)	–	2	–
Victor Polo (COL)	–	3	8
Angel Vasquez (PR)	24	5	11
Juan Manuel Marquez (MEX)	14	7	–
Richard Carrillo (VEN)	–	8	–
Radford Beasley (USA)	12	9	–
Vacant	–	–	1
Mbulelo Botile (SA)	–	–	2
Manuel Medina (MEX)	21	–	4
Frankie Toledo (USA)	–	–	5
Oscar Larios (MEX)	–	–	6
Junior Jones (USA)	–	–	9

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Erik Morales (MEX)	C	–	–
Clarence Adams (USA)	–	C	–
Lehlo Ledwaba (SA)	–	–	C
Michael Brodie (GB)	1	7	2
Willie Jorrin (USA)	2	11	3
Sergei Devakov (UKR)	3	–	–
Wayne McCullough (IRE)	4	–	–
Oscar Larios (MEX)	5	–	–
Cesar Soto (MEX)	6	–	–
Manny Pacquaio (PHIL)	7	–	12
Enrique Sanchez (MEX)	8	9	5
Israel Vazquez (MEX)	9	–	8
Shin Yamato (JAP)	10	–	–
Antonio Cermeno (VEN)	–	1	–
Yobert Ortega (VEN)	21	2	–
Bugiarso (INDO)	–	3	–
Nestor Garza (MEX)	–	4	–
Vladislav Antonov (RUS)	19	5	6
Jose Luis Valbuena (VEN)	–	6	–
Jose Rojas (VEN)	–	8	–
Osamu Sato (JAP)	–	10	–
Ernesto Gray (COL)	–	–	1
Jesus Salud (USA)	–	–	4
Agapito Sanchez (DR)	16	–	7
Hector Julia Avila (DR)	12	–	9
John Johnson (USA)	–	–	10

BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Veerapol Sahaprom (THAI)	C	–	–
Paul Ayala (USA)	–	C	–
Tim Austin (USA)	–	–	C
Cuauhtemoc Gomez (MEX)	1	4	8
Jess Maca (PHIL)	2	–	–
Adan Vargas (MEX)	3	7	–
Dario Azuaga (PAR)	4	–	–
Gerardo Martinez (MEX)	5	–	–
Ricardo Barajas (MEX)	6	–	–
Hugo Dianzo (MEX)	7	–	–
Toshiaki Nishioka (JAP)	8	–	–
Evangelio Perez (PAN)	9	11	–
Francisco Mateos (MEX)	10	–	–
Vacant	–	1	–
Sahoiu Sithchai Condo (THAI)	–	2	–
Danny Romero (USA)	–	3	–
Toshiaki Nishioka (JAP)	–	5	–
Fernando Montiel (MEX)	–	6	–
Johnny Bredahl (DEN)	–	8	–
Rafael Marquez (MEX)	11	9	12
Jorge Eliecer Julio (COL)	–	10	–
Jesus Perez (COL)	25	–	1
Arthur Johnson (USA)	12	–	2
Jose Mendoza (COL)	–	–	3
Pete Frissina (USA)	–	–	4
Nana Konadu (GHA)	13	–	5
Noel Wilders (GB)	24	–	6
Paul Lloyd (GB)	–	–	7
Mauricio Martinez (PAN)	–	–	9
Steve Dotse (GHA)	–	–	10

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
In Joo Cho (KOR)	C	–	–
Hideki Todaka (JAP)	–	C	–
Vacant	–	–	C
Eric Morel (USA)	1	–	–
Gerry Penalosa (PHIL)	2	–	8
Joel Luna Zarate (MEX)	3	9	10
Heriberto Ruiz (MEX)	4	–	6
Dimitri Kirilov (RUS)	5	–	–
Masanori Tokuyama (JAP)	6	–	–
Seungrok Choi (KOR)	7	–	–
Trinidad Mendoza (MEX)	8	–	–
Fernando Montiel (MEX)	9	–	–
Reynaldo Hurtado (COL)	10	–	–
Leo Gamez (VEN)	–	1	–
Saen Sow Ploenchit (THAI)	–	2	4
Jesus Rojas (VEN)	–	3	–
Edison Torres (VEN)	–	4	–
Felix Machado (VEN)	–	5	2
Jesper Jensen (DEN)	–	6	–
Akihigo Nago (JAP)	13	7	–
Yokthai Sithoar (THAI)	–	8	5
Lester Fuentes (NIC)	26	10	–
Julio Gamboa (NIC)	–	–	1
Luis Bolanos (COL)	–	12	3
Raul Juarez (MEX)	–	–	7
Francisco Tejedor (COL)	–	–	9

FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Malcolm Tunacao (PHIL)	C	–	–
Sornpichai Kratchingdaeng (THAI)	–	C	–
Irene Pacheco (COL)	–	–	C
Alex Ali Baba (GHA)	1	–	7
Medgoen Singsurat (THAI)	2	–	–
David Guerault (FRA)	3	4	1
Gabriel Mira (MEX)	4	–	–
Mike Trejo (USA)	5	10	4
Saen Sor Ploenchit (THAI)	6	–	–
Hiroshi Nakano (JAP)	7	–	–
Alejandro Montiel (MEX)	8	9	3
Everardo Morales (MEX)	9	–	–
Damaen Kelly (GB)	10	–	–
Jose Bonilla (VEN)	–	1	–
Denkaosaen Kaowitch (THAI)	30	2	–
Panieng Okuda (THAI)	–	3	–
Eric Morel (USA)	–	5	–
Hugo Soto (ARG)	–	6	12
Jose Lopez (VEN)	–	7	–
Gilberto Gonzalez (VEN)	–	8	11
Vacant	–	–	2
Zoltan Lunka (TUR)	19	–	5
Pedro Pena (USA)	–	–	6
Jose Landin (USA)	–	–	8
Angel Priolo (COL)	–	–	9
Ferid Ben Jeddou (TUN)	–	–	10

JR. FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Yosam Choi (KOR)	C	–	–
Pichitnoi C. Siriwat (THAI)	–	C	–
Ricardo Lopez (MEX)	–	–	C
Jorge Arce (MEX)	1	6	9
Saman Sorjaturong (THAI)	2	9	–
Melchor Cob Castro (MEX)	3	3	5
Hidenobu Honda (JAP)	4	2	–
Panieng Sasiprabha (THAI)	5	–	–
Jose Luis Zepeda (MEX)	6	–	–
Pongsaklek Wonjongkam (THAI)	7	–	–
Nelson Dieppa (DR)	8	7	–
Takayuki Korogi (JAP)	9	–	–
Eric Ortiz (MEX)	10	–	–
Rosendo Alvarez (NIC)	–	1	–
Pongsaklek Nakornton (THAI)	–	4	–
Yura Dimas (MON)	–	5	–
Masibulele Makepula (SA)	–	8	–
Jose Sanjuanelo (COL)	–	10	–
Vacant	–	–	1
Vacant	–	–	2
Will Grigsby (USA)	–	12	3
Ratanapol Sor Vorapin (THAI)	25	11	4
Pongsaklek Sithkanongsak (THAI)	–	–	6
Alex Sanchez (PR)	–	–	7
Domingo Guillen (DR)	–	–	8
Mickey Cantwell (GB)	–	–	10

STRAWWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Jose Antonio Aguirre (MEX)	C	–	–
Noel Arumbulet (VEN)	–	C	–
Zolani Petelo (SA)	–	–	C
Daniel Reyes (COL)	1	3	1
Erdene Chuluun (MON)	2	–	–
Wandee Chor Chareon (THAI)	3	–	–
Yasuo Tokimitsu (JAP)	4	–	10
Juan Keb Baas (MEX)	5	–	–
Makoto Suzuki (JAP)	6	12	–
Jaewon Kim (KOR)	7	–	–
Keitaro Hoshino (JAP)	8	–	–
Manny Melchor (PHIL)	9	–	–
Andy Tabanas (PHIL)	10	–	–
Joma Gamboa (PHIL)	–	1	–
Chana Porpaoin (THAI)	–	2	–
Jose Garcia (COL)	–	4	–
Udomdet Porpaoin (THAI)	–	5	–
Hiroshi Matsumoto (JAP)	16	6	–
Songkram Porpaoin (THAI)	–	7	–
Satoru Abe (JAP)	17	8	–
Fasan Pongsawan (THAI)	–	9	–
Atsushi Sai (JAP)	–	10	–
Vacant	–	–	2
Mickey Cantwell (GB)	–	–	3
Rocky Palma (JAP)	–	–	4
Faisol Akbar (INDO)	–	–	5
Hiroshi Nakajima (JAP)	–	–	6
Rocky Lim (TWN)	–	–	7
Alberto Rossel (PERU)	–	–	8
Juan Herrera (COL)	–	–	9

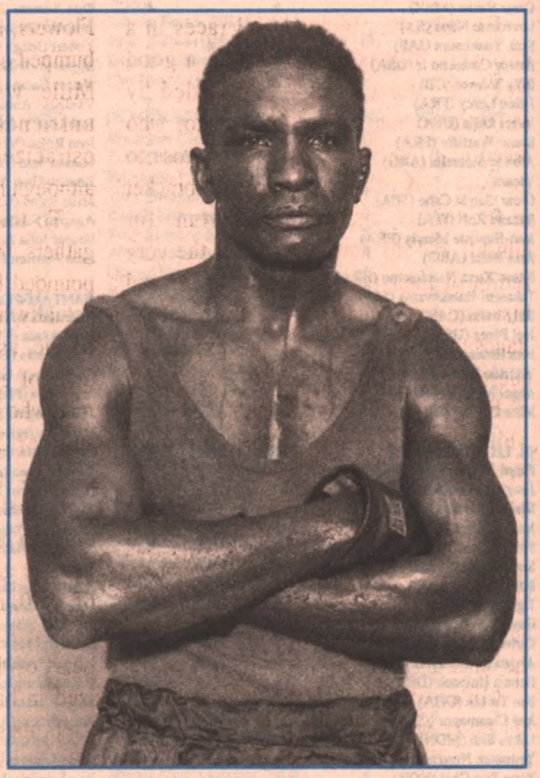
CLASSIC

TIGER FLOWERS' MYSTERIOUS DEATH STILL HAUNTS BOXING WORLD

By Jimmy Jones

(Editor's Note: This is a condensed version)

Fight managers come in several shades—including shady—but several have stood out in my mind as being above average—men of color, intellect, and something approaching character. One of these was Lew Diamond, known as "The Honest Brakeman" because when he worked on the railroad, not a single boxcar went astray. Another I liked and respected was Leo P. Flynn, known both as "The Silver Fox" and "The Carpetbagger." Leo put boxing on a mass production basis the likes of which never had been seen before.



The life of Theodore "Tiger" Flowers, the first black middleweight champion, ended tragically and mysteriously when he died during a routine operation in November 1927. One year later, his flamboyant manager, Walk Miller, also died in a suspicious manner.

But the strangest, most gifted, yet most enigmatic boxing manager that I knew in nearly 30 years of sportswriting was the late Walk Miller. A quiet, soft-spoken man until he was riled—and then he could be mercurial and raucous—Miller started out managing in Atlanta in the early-1920s.

Miller didn't cut much of a figure in boxing circles until he accidentally stumbled across a stevedore in Brunswick, Georgia, a Negro middleweight named Theodore "Tiger" Flowers. The latter was to become the first of his race ever to hold the world's middleweight title, and both he and his manager were destined to die in a series of tragedies that shook the almost unshakeable fistic world, and which comprise one of boxing's great unsolved mysteries.

Flowers, a humble, deeply religious man, was known as "The Georgia Deacon" because of his habit of carrying on his person at all times, in the ring and out, a miniature Bible that he read almost constantly. If ever there was a model and modest gentleman in the boxing business, it was Flowers. He was studiously polite and courteous to everyone, including his opponents.

From THE RING, May 1975

Flowers' rise in prominence marked the first time since Jack Johnson (pictured, vs. Jim Jeffries), the former heavyweight champ who was born in Galveston, Texas, that the South had produced a black fighter who was destined to become a world champion.

His admirers included all races in a day when it was hard for even a good Negro fighter to get work. Guided by Miller, a former streetcar conductor who loved him like a brother, Flowers rose to the very peak of the middleweight bracket in four years, and earned a fortune for himself and his manager. Yet at the very zenith of their fame, both the boxer and his manager met death amid circumstances that were certainly bizarre, if not questionable.

Flowers' obituary shows that he died while on an operating table in a private New York hospital in November 1927. In September of 1928, Miller, his colorful manager and devoted guardian, was found sprawled across a cot in his Kingston, New York, home. Two bullets had pierced his body. One had entered his left temple, the other his heart.

Miller was not left-handed, but when his body was discovered, a pistol was found cradled in his left elbow—a circumstance that baffled the foremost detectives and crime experts of the day.

The operation on Flowers was a fairly simple one for the removal of some tissue that had formed as a result of old eye cuts.

Miller, who was a lone wolf with plenty of enemies among a trade where Flowers had only friends, immediately launched a charge that his fighter had died as the result of an overdose of ether. He had an autopsy performed and appeared before the New York Boxing Commission with what he said was evidence that Flowers not only had been given too much ether, but had been operated on after he was dead.

For these sensational accusations that Flowers, his meal ticket, was deliberately bumped off by forces hostile to him, Walk Miller was labeled "Squawk" Miller by unfriendly sportswriters and virtually ostracized from the boxing profession, although he continued to manage.

To this day, wherever the fight mob gathers, these questions are apt to be propounded by some of those present: What actually happened to Tiger Flowers? Did he die, as Miller charged, from an overdose of ether, and did Miller, the white man who loved him like a brother, commit suicide? Or was he murdered?

Here is the perfect setup for a mystery story that is stranger than fiction. But in order to pick up the threads of the plot, we have to go back to the gay post-war year of 1920. Miller was operating a gymnasium on Atlanta's Decatur Street in the heart of the colored section. He specialized in handling Negro fighters—this in itself unusual for that time—and occasionally booked his fighters on all-Negro shows about Georgia.

One day a letter came to Miller from Brunswick, Georgia. It seems there was a young Negro stevedore down there who was creating quite a bit of havoc along the waterfront with his fists. His admirers, both white and black, thought he had ability. Never one to overlook talent, Miller sent a veteran, battle-marked heavyweight named Billy Hooper to find out. The next day, the veteran staggered into Miller's gym, his face looking like a tenderloin out for a walk. "Why Bill, what in the name of goodness happened?" asked the astonished Miller. "I thought I sent you down there to lick that cotton walloper."

"Mistah Walk," Old Bill replied through painfully swollen lips, "I trims 'im all right if he'd been human ... but the man you sent me atter ain't no human. 'E's a tigah ... tha's all, a tigah ..."

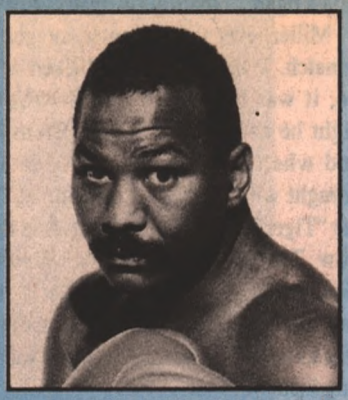
Miller, ever the promoter, suggested a rematch. When "Old Bill" balked at battle, it was time to investigate. So that night he caught a rattler for Brunswick, and when he returned to Atlanta, he brought with him, alive, and in the flesh, the "Tiger" of Old Bill's fears. And that is how Theodore Flowers of Camilla, Georgia, came into Walk Miller's stable and into heritage of a fighting name that was to become famous as well as tragic in ring history.

From the day he acquired Flowers' name on a contract, Miller's own fortunes took a turn for the better. For the first time since Jack Johnson, who was born in Galveston, Texas, the South had produced a Negro fighter who was destined to become a world champion.

Prior to landing the Tiger, Miller had been only a small fry promoter and manager, and he and Flowers faced an additional handicap in that, excepting for El Paso and one or two other border cities in Texas, mixed bouts were strictly forbidden all over Dixie. Besides, at Macon, a scant 100 miles away, there resided a

It was hard for black fighters like Flowers to reach any acclaim in the Deep South. What made Flowers' situation harder was that only 100 miles away, in Macon, was Bill Stribling (pictured), a white middleweight grabbing headlines for fighting to a draw with light heavyweight champ Mike McTigue.

THE RING RATINGS, May 1975



Jose Napoles

HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Muhammad Ali, Chicago, IL
1. **George Foreman,** Hayward, CA
2. **Joe Frazier,** Philadelphia, PA
3. **Joe Bugner,** England
4. **Ken Norton,** San Diego, CA
5. **Jerry Quarry,** Los Angeles, CA
6. **Oscar Bonavena,** Argentina
7. **Jimmy Young,** Philadelphia, PA
8. **Ron Lyle,** Denver, CO
9. **Chuck Wepner,** Bayonne, NJ
10. **Bunny Johnson,** England

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Vacant
1. **John Conteh,** England
2. **Victor Galindez,** Argentina
3. **Len Hutchins,** Detroit, MI
4. **Jorge Ahumada,** Argentina
5. **Alvaro Lopez,** Stockton, CA
6. **Richie Kates,** Philadelphia, PA
7. **Pierre Fourie,** South Africa
8. **Steve Aczel,** Australia
9. **Tom Bethea,** New York, NY
10. **Avenamar Peralta,** Argentina

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
World Champ: Carlos Monzon, Argentina
1. **Rodrigo Valdez,** Colombia
2. **Tony Licata,** New Orleans, LA
3. **Vito Antuofermo,** Brooklyn, NY
4. **Gratien Tonna,** France
5. **Kevin Finnegan,** England
6. **George Cooper,** Oakland, CA
7. **Bobby Watts,** Philadelphia, PA
8. **Rudy Robles,** Los Angeles, CA
9. **Emile Griffith,** New York, NY
10. **Max Cohen,** France

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS
World Champ: Koichi Wajima, Japan
1. **Elisha Obed,** Bahamas
2. **Jose Duran,** Spain
3. **Oscar Alvarado,** Uvalde, TX
4. **Miguel de Oliviera,** Brazil
5. **Maurice Hope,** England
6. **Eckhard Dagge,** Germany
7. **Miguel Castellini,** Argentina
8. **Miguel Angel Campanino,** Argentina
9. **Rafael Rodriguez,** Minneapolis, MN
10. **Mike Baker,** Spartanburg, SC

WELTERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Jose Napoles, Mexico
1. **Clyde Gray,** Canada
2. **Angel Espada,** Puerto Rico
3. **Fausto Rodriguez,** Dominican Republic
4. **John Stracey,** England
5. **Armando Muniz,** Los Angeles, CA
6. **Bruno Arcari,** Italy
7. **Rocky Mattioli,** Australia
8. **Alfonso Hayman,** Philadelphia, PA
9. **Johnny Gant,** Washington, D.C.
10. **Hedgemon Lewis,** Detroit, MI

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Antonio Cervantes, Colombia
1. **Esteban DeJesus,** Puerto Rico
2. **Hector Thompson,** Australia
3. **Monroe Brooks,** Los Angeles, CA
4. **Tony Petronelli,** Taunton, MA
5. **Pedro Fernandez,** Spain
6. **Toni Ortiz,** Spain
7. **Emiliano Villa,** Colombia
8. **Leoncio Ortiz,** Mexico
9. **Brooks Byrd,** Clovis, NM
10. **Miguel Barreto,** Puerto Rico

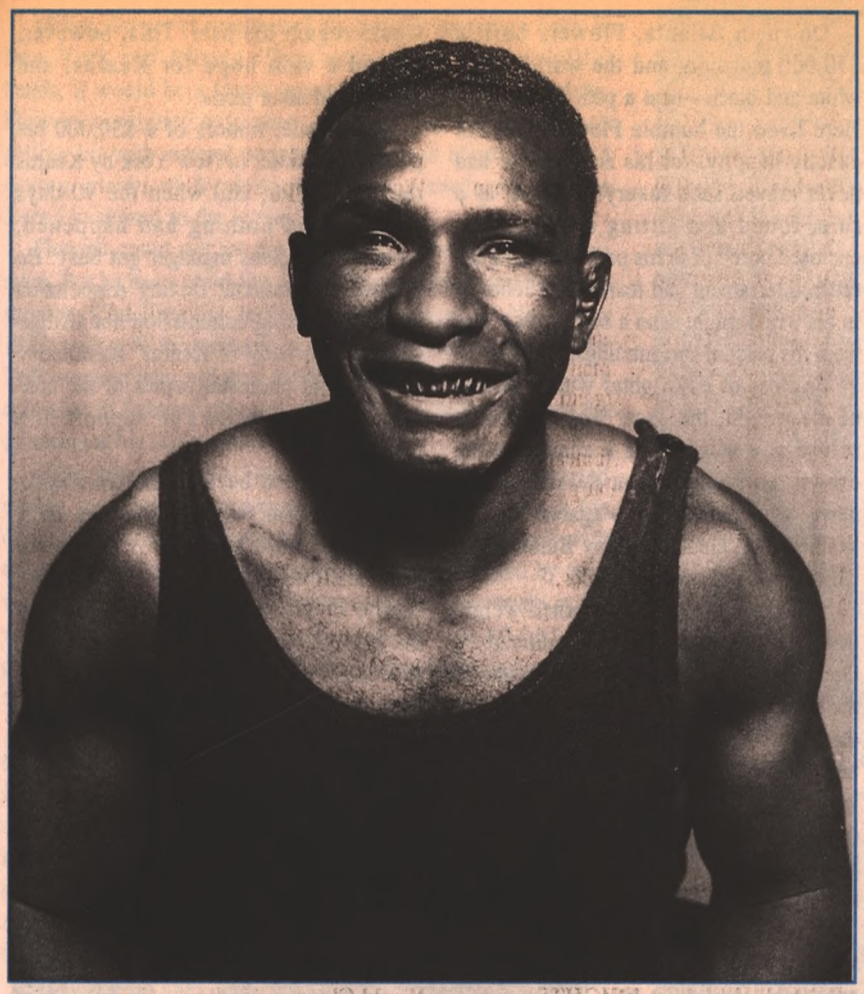
LIGHTWEIGHTS
World Champ: Roberto Duran, Panama
1. **Ray Lampkin,** Portland, OR
2. **Ishimatsu Suzuki,** Japan
3. **Angel Mayoral,** Las Vegas, NV
4. **Ken Buchanan,** Scotland
5. **Arturo Pineda,** Mexico
6. **Ray Lunny III,** San Francisco, CA
7. **Hugo Barraza,** Colombia
8. **Jose Luis Lopez,** Mexico
9. **Shengsak Muangsurin,** Thailand
10. **Hugo Gutierrez,** Argentina

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS
World Champ: Ben Villaflor, Philippines
1. **Sven-Erik Paulsen,** Norway
2. **Kuniaki Shibata,** Japan
3. **Tyrone Everett,** Philadelphia, PA
4. **Victor Echegaray,** Argentina
5. **Samuel Serrano,** Puerto Rico
6. **Lothar Abend,** Germany
7. **Jean-Baptiste Piedvache,** France
8. **Mario Roman,** Mexico
9. **Apollo Yoshio,** Japan
10. **Pedro Aguero,** Argentina

FEATHERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Vacant
1. **Bobby Chacon,** Los Angeles, CA
2. **Alexis Arguello,** Nicaragua
3. **Lionel Hernandez,** Venezuela
4. **Art Hafey,** Canada
5. **Ruben Olivares,** Mexico
6. **Shig Fukuyama,** Japan
7. **Elio Cotina,** Italy
8. **Royal Kobayashi,** Japan
9. **Eder Jofre,** Brazil
10. **Jose Casas,** Argentina

BANTAMWEIGHTS
World Champ: Soo Hwan Hong, Korea
1. **Rodolfo Martinez,** Mexico
2. **Benicio Sosa,** Argentina
3. **Romeo Anaya,** Mexico
4. **Rodolfo Herrera,** Mexico
5. **Arnold Taylor,** South Africa
6. **Alfonso Zamora,** Mexico
7. **David Needham,** England
8. **Joe Guevara,** Sacramento, CA
9. **David Vasquez,** New York, NY
10. **Paul Ferreri,** Australia

FLYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Miguel Canto, Mexico
1. **Thanomjit Sukothai,** Thailand
2. **Betulio Gonzalez,** Venezuela
3. **Shoji Oguma,** Japan
4. **Susumu Hanagata,** Japan
5. **Erbito Salvarria,** Thailand
6. **Ignacio Espinoza,** Dominican Republic
7. **Fritz Chervet,** Switzerland
8. **Vicente Pool,** Mexico
9. **Cecil Escobido,** Philippines
10. **Pablo Jiminez,** Dominican Republic



The affable Flowers had strong crossover appeal to both whites and blacks of the time. The Tiger was considered a humble, deeply religious man, and was also known as "The Georgia Deacon," because of his habit of carrying a miniature Bible.

pompadoured high school boy named Bill Stribling who had just attained national prominence by fighting a widely heralded draw with the world's light heavyweight champion, the veteran and crafty Mike McTigue at Columbus, Georgia. With all the populace in the Cracker State and well beyond its environs excited over Young Stribling, the 18-year-old boy wonder, the time seemed most unpropitious for breaking in a colored fighter in the Deep South.

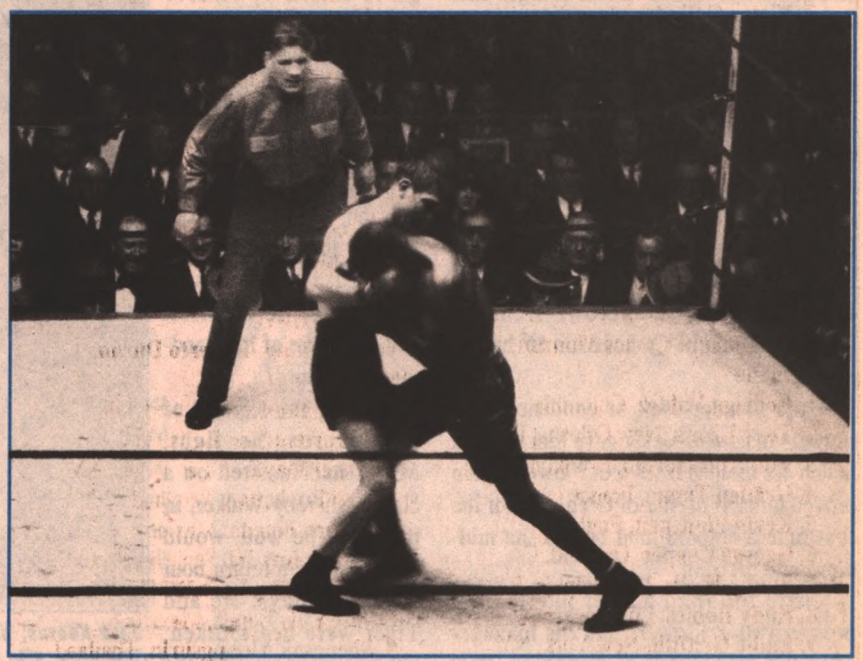
But Tiger Flowers was no ordinary colored man and certainly no ordinary fighter. His marked humility, ultra-politeness, ingratiating manners, and, far from least, his genuine religious nature began winning him friends from every racial category.

Miller and Flowers hit it off from the beginning in what was, perhaps, the most beautiful friendship that ever existed between white man and black. It took Miller only a few glimpses of Flowers in action to convince him that he had a great find, even if his skin wasn't quite the ideal pigmentation for a Deep South boxer of that era.

Under Miller's clever handling, Flowers began improving tremendously. Although mixed bouts were forbidden in Georgia, Miller took Flowers out to El Paso and Juarez, Mexico, where they were not. And there he added to his fame by beating the original Gorilla Jones, Frankie Carbone, and Andy "Kid" Palmer. Already, miracle of miracles, the battling black man had become a greater favorite in Atlanta than Stribling, whose fame had spread nationwide, whereas that of Flowers was still confined to the South.

But Miller was planning an ambitious program for his ward. In the fall of 1924, he accepted a non-title fight with Harry Greb, of Pittsburgh, then middleweight champion, in Fremont, Ohio. The result was a newspaper decision for Flowers. And The Georgia Deacon was made. The fight with Greb launched Flowers nationally.

So there we find the Miller-Flowers combination ensconced at the start of 1925, a year destined to bring in more wealth, fame, and a definite portion of sadness to a white man who loved a Negro like a brother, and a black man who had implicit faith in the white man's judgment.



Flowers' first defeat of middleweight champ Harry Greb in a non-title bout launched Tiger into the national spotlight. Six months later, Greb granted Flowers a rematch, and Flowers became the first black man to win the middleweight championship.

Mickey Walker, "The Toy Bulldog," was thought to be washed-up when Flowers met him in December 1926. But Walker won a highly disputed 10-round decision over Flowers for the middleweight crown, then never gave Flowers a return bout—as was originally contracted.

It was also to bring the first sinister omens of a tragedy that was to lay a heavy hand upon the indomitable duo from Dixie.

For in that year, the outspoken Miller antagonized certain elements on the fringes of fistiana that he later abruptly charged with Tiger's death, charges that were almost as abruptly ended with the mysterious death of Miller himself. Flowers' big chance came when, after establishing his supremacy over the rest of the challengers, he was given a crack at Greb's middleweight crown. The busy style of the light-hitting but aggressive Greb was more adaptable to Tiger's own. They met in the new Garden, and Flowers removed the crown from the great Pittsburgher's head in 15 hectic rounds.

Greb pleaded lack of condition, and Flowers magnanimously gave him a return match six months later. But Flowers again proved himself master of Greb, and for the first time a colored man bossed the middleweight division.

There followed a brief interlude of prosperity for Flowers and his manager after the long years of struggles. Few champions have worn their laurels more lightly and with more dignity than Tiger.

Down in Atlanta, Flowers built a $50,000 mansion, and the world—both white and black—beat a path to his door. Here lived the humble Flowers, but not exactly happily, for his simple soul had never craved such luxury. Visitors, as a rule, found him sitting on his glass-enclosed porch or in his parlor, reading his tattered testament and fearful that Jehovah in his wrath might send a bolt to blast him from his palatial surroundings.

Fearless of any fighter within pounds of his weight, the Tiger was not one to refuse any worthy foe a chance at his crown, so we find him defending his newly won championship against Mickey Walker, the celebrated "Toy Bulldog," in Chicago on December 7, 1926.

Walker, another who scorned weight odds, had been decisively trounced by Greb the previous summer, while holder of the welterweight title. He subsequently lost the title to Pete Latzo and was thought to be washed-up. However, under the masterly maneuvering of Jack Kearns, he put on a comeback and won recognition as Flowers' logical challenger for the middleweight title.

When the 10 rounds were over in Chicago, an astounded audience was greeted with the spectacle of seeing Walker's soggy glove raised by referee Benny Yanger, an old-time featherweight. Newspapermen at ringside, almost without exception, had scored the fight in Flowers' favor. Miller was amazed and incensed and tried to have the decision reversed, but was unsuccessful. He, to be brief, had lost more of his standing as a plaintiff.

During the signing of articles for the fight, Miller had insisted on a clause whereby Walker, in the event he won, would give Flowers a return bout within 90 days. He and Tiger were heartbroken, but were cheered by the possibility of a return bout, feeling sure Flowers would regain his title. This, however, proved a vain hope for Kearns, and Walker had other plans.

Meanwhile, rumors of a $50,000 bet placed on Walker in New York by Kearns reached Miller, and when the 90 days were up and nothing had happened, Flowers' tenacious manager got busy. He notified the National Boxing Association and every boxing commission not affiliated with that body of Kearns' repudiation and sent out photostat copies of the contract to sports editors in support of a rematch.

Tiger started back to the wars again and by now was being bothered by dizzy spells. He consulted various physicians who assured him these were being caused by a sinus growth. Old cuts over his left eye were said to have aggravated this condition. As the months wore on, these spells became more frequent and lasting. He and Miller discussed surgery, but as Greb had died the previous fall from a similar operation, both were loath to risk it.

Jack Kearns, pictured with his most important client, Jack Dempsey, also represented Walker. Rumors of a $50,000 bet placed on Walker by Kearns reached Miller, who tried contacting every boxing commission he could about Kearns' rejection for a rematch between Walker and Flowers.

Miller, however, continued to consult surgeons, both in New York and Atlanta. They assured him that in skillful hands, it would be a minor operation at worst. All the while, Flowers continued suffering. After boxing Pete Latzo and getting hit with several punches that almost blinded him and having attacks of dizziness while doing roadwork, he was forced to submit to the operation.

Flowers could not get the picture of Harry Greb out of his mind. But he had a child-like faith in Miller's judgment to get the surgery. Clutching his well-worn Bible, Tiger, in November 1927, walked to the operating room. Dr. Wilfred Fraelick, a New York surgeon who had now a certain amount of recognition as a specialist in fighters' ailments, had been selected to perform the operation at his private hospital.

Miller remained with Flowers until he went under ether, and unable to stand the suspense any longer, he returned to his offices. In order to relieve his mind, he busied himself with office work while awaiting the call. The hours dragged by until well into the afternoon, and Miller, glancing nervously at his watch, suddenly realized that the time for the call had long passed. Frantically, he called and was quickly informed to come at once.

White-faced and terror-stricken, Miller arrived at the hospital to learn that his worst fears were justified. An attendant informed him that Flowers was dead, that he had never come out from under the ether. Collapsing into a chair, Miller sobbed brokenly, "They have killed my champion." Flowers' body was returned to Atlanta where it lay in state at the City Auditorium with thousands of admirers viewing the flower-banked casket.

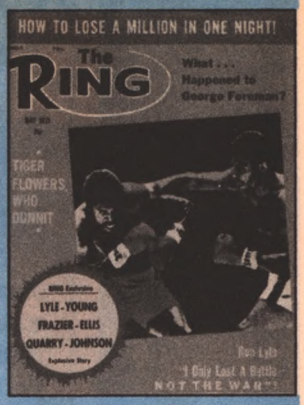
Now for the last chapter of the Flowers-Miller mystery: Shortly after Miller's death, Dr. Wilfred Fraelick, the distinguished surgeon who had operated on both Flowers and Greb, was stricken and died suddenly with no previous signs of illness. And, at about the same time, from Chicago, came the news that Benny Yanger, the referee of the Flowers-Walker fight that touched off the chain of events that led to this series of tragedies, was found dead in a wrecked automobile on the shores of Lake Michigan.

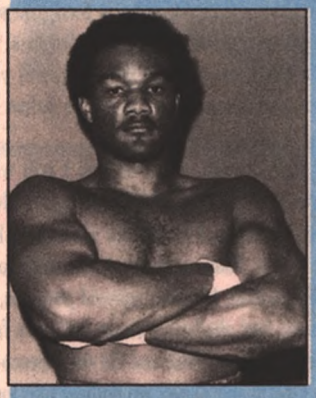
The wagering on the Flowers-Walker fight was among the heaviest in history, and Yanger apparently was the only one who thought that Walker had won. His explanation was that Flowers undoubtedly was far out in front on points, but that most of his blows were struck with an open glove while Walker, although he landed fewer punches, did the most damage because his fists were closed.

Thus a trio of tragedies now became a foursome. So far as is known, the newspapers and public of that period accepted all as being natural or accidental causes, although the *New York Daily Mirror* did dig rather deeply into the series of episodes to no effect. But is there another story behind the chain of macabre events, and will it come to light some day? Could an unsuccessful operation, a pistol shot, a sudden illness, and an auto accident—all within the span of two years—involving three of the participants in a highly disputed boxing decision all be acts of God?

Only God (Himself) knows the answer! ■

The Cover: Ron Lyle told what it was like to blow a chance at a big payday against Muhammad Ali, after he lost to unheralded Philadelphia heavyweight Jimmy Young. The victory elevated Young, while Lyle said the Young defeat destroyed two years of rebuilding his reputation after his loss to Jerry Quarry.



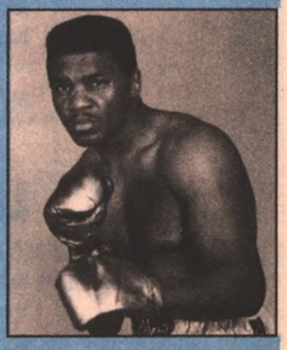


Who's Next: THE RING pondered Muhammad Ali's next move, which looked likely to be a battle with either George Foreman *(pictured)* or Joe Frazier. Fighters like Foreman and Frazier tended to bring out the best in Ali, said Angelo Dundee, Ali's trainer. "It is difficult to arouse Ali's interest and efforts against a man of a lesser type," Dundee said.

Still Smokin': Joe Frazier leaped back into heavyweight contention with a convincing ninth-round knockout of Jimmy Ellis in Melbourne, Australia. It marked the second time "Smokin' Joe" knocked out Ellis, who was dismissed in five rounds by Frazier when they met for the heavyweight title in 1970.

When To Say When: In a look at the warning signs of a fighter's demise, THE RING broached a few examples of the past. After Fred Apostoli lost the middleweight title to Ceferino Garcia in 1939, he was never the same fighter again.

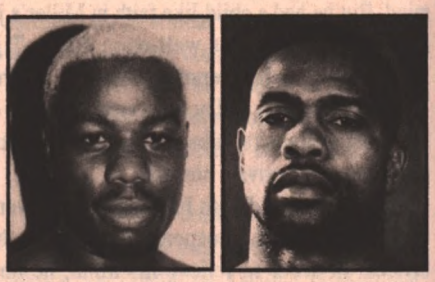
Fighter Of The Month: Jimmy Young zoomed up the rankings and into the top 10 by scoring a 10-round decision over highly rated Ron Lyle. Young was giving up 15 pounds to Lyle, yet controlled the fight against the Denver, Colorado-based heavyweight with quick, snappy left hooks.



LOOKING AHEAD

By Eric Raskin

HARDING KNOCKS



Harding-Jones: Does the underdog have a prayer?

You just won the biggest fight of your life, breaking an undefeated Olympian's ribs, jaw, and spirit en route to a unanimous-decision victory. After you return from your obligatory trip to Disney World, what do you do next? If you're a logical thinker, you at least enjoy and prolong your success with a few easy wins, now that you're considered an attraction. The one thing you don't do is feed yourself to the most talented fighter alive, ensuring yourself a one-sided loss.

Unless, that is, you're **Eric Harding**, and you truly believe in your heart that you can and will find a way to defeat **Roy Jones** when you challenge him for the world light heavyweight title on TVKO pay-per-view on September 9.

"I'm in there to win, and I believe I will win," Harding said a few days after his impressive points win over **Antonio Tarver** made him the mandatory challenger to Jones. "People might say I can help myself just by looking good in defeat, but as far as I'm concerned, I don't gain nothing by losing. All I can think about is me being the winner."

Against Tarver, Harding showed determination, a fierce body attack, and timely aggression. In his previous career-best win, over **Montell Griffin**, Harding showed patience, southpaw smarts, and counterpunching skill. His versatility and desire make him perhaps the best challenger Jones will have faced as a light heavyweight—or at least a far more worthy one than Jones' last two opponents, **Richard Hall** and **David Telesco**—but do all his resources really add up to enough to trouble Jones?

"I know Griffin and Tarver are nothing like Jones," Harding, 19-0-1 (6), admitted. "Nobody can simulate his speed. Roy Jones is on a whole different level. But I've never been dominated in a fight in my life, and I don't plan on it happening this time."

Well, even if it does happen, at least Harding will have a $600,000 payday (15 times his previous high of $40,000) to ease his pain. And the guess here is that he'll also come away with the knowledge that he gave Jones his stiffest challenge since a spunky **Lou Del Valle** lasted the distance and unexpectedly put Jones on the canvas over two years ago.

GATTI'S GAME PLAN

Gatti: Tszyu on his menu?

The outcome of the **Shane Mosley-Oscar De La Hoya** fight didn't only drastically alter the careers of Sugar Shane and "The Golden Boy." Another man whose agenda has changed as a result of Mosley's upset win was **Arturo Gatti**, who was penciled in to make mad money against De La Hoya in September. Obviously, that's off. And with a De La Hoya-Mosley rematch looking like it won't happen until next January, Gatti's manager, **Pat Lynch**, knows he's going to have to seek out other Golden opportunities in the meantime. But there are still plenty of them out there for the most exciting fighter in the world.

"Oscar losing threw everything into disarray," Lynch said, "but one possibility is that Shane might be looking for another fight before the rematch. A fight with **Kostya Tszyu** is also being discussed, and stylewise, that's the fight we want. It makes more sense than fighting a boxer like Mosley or **Zab Judah**, which is another name that's been mentioned for Arturo.

"Most people figured after the second **Ivan Robinson** fight that Arturo had nothing left. But I think he's hitting much harder at 140 and 147 pounds because there's not as much struggle to make the weight. He's more comfortable, he's much happier, and he can fight at either one of those weights if the right opportunity is there."

And how much longer can the 28-year-old Gatti, whom many predicted would have completely fizzled out by now due to his face-first style, keep fighting?

"I think he can be in this for about two more years," Lynch said. "Then maybe we'll look for a spot on *The Sopranos*."

LISTEN UP

As we went to press, former WBC lightweight champ **Stevie Johnston's** rematch with new titlist **Jose Luis Castillo** looked to be headed to Denver on September 15, with ESPN2 televising ... Why have **Andrew Golota's** tuneups suddenly become so appealing to the folks at Showtime? The pay-cable network plans to show Golota vs. compliant compatriot **Przemyslaw Saleta** in Poland in late-September, building toward a possible November 18 war between Golota and **Mike Tyson**. ■

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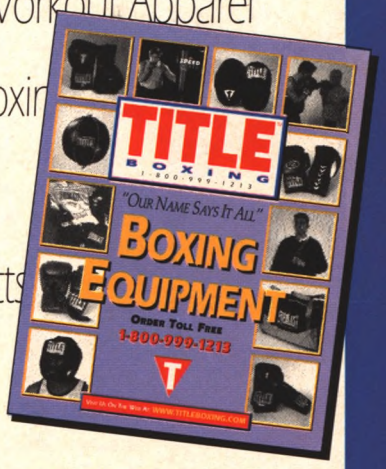

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